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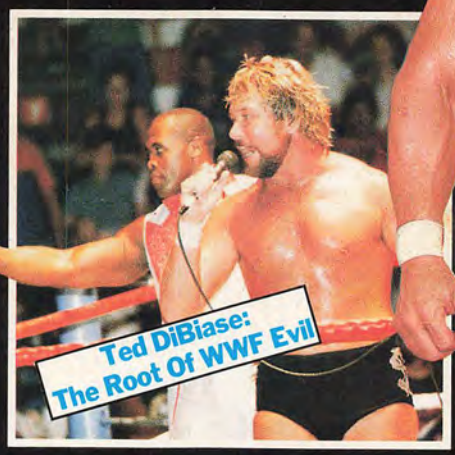
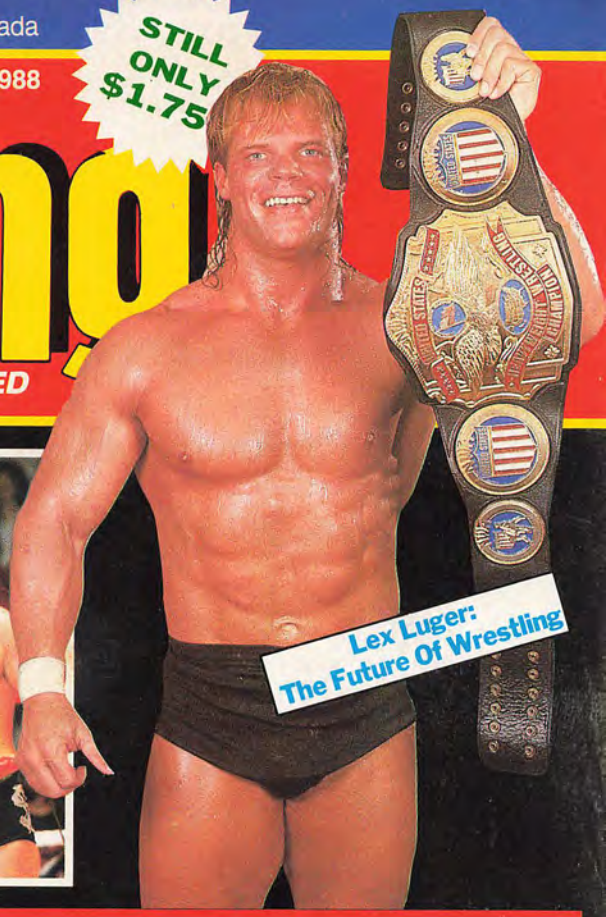
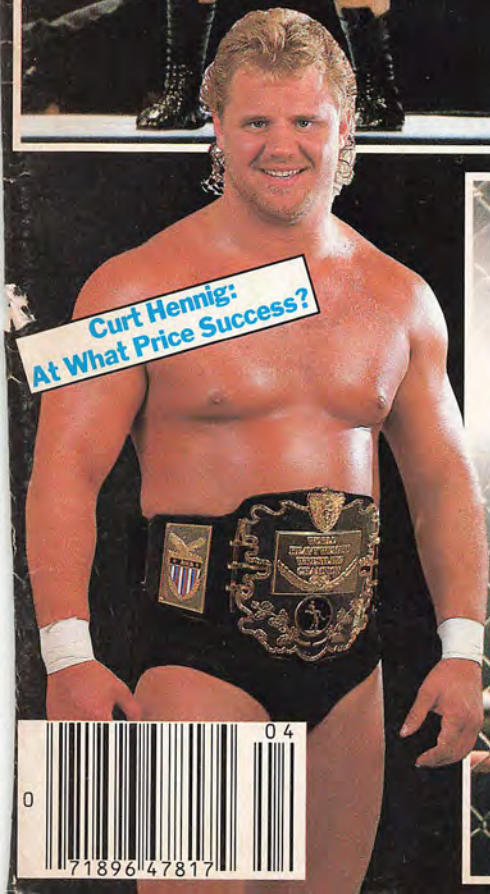


Ted DiBiase: The Root Of WWF Evil



Lex Luger: The Future Of Wrestling

1987 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



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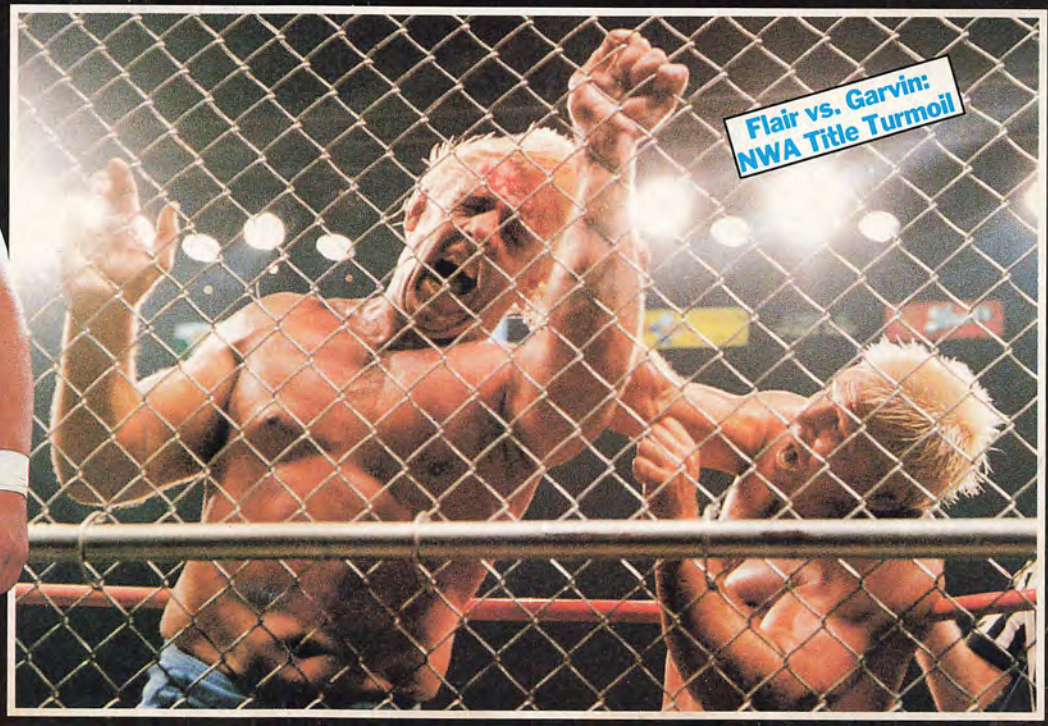

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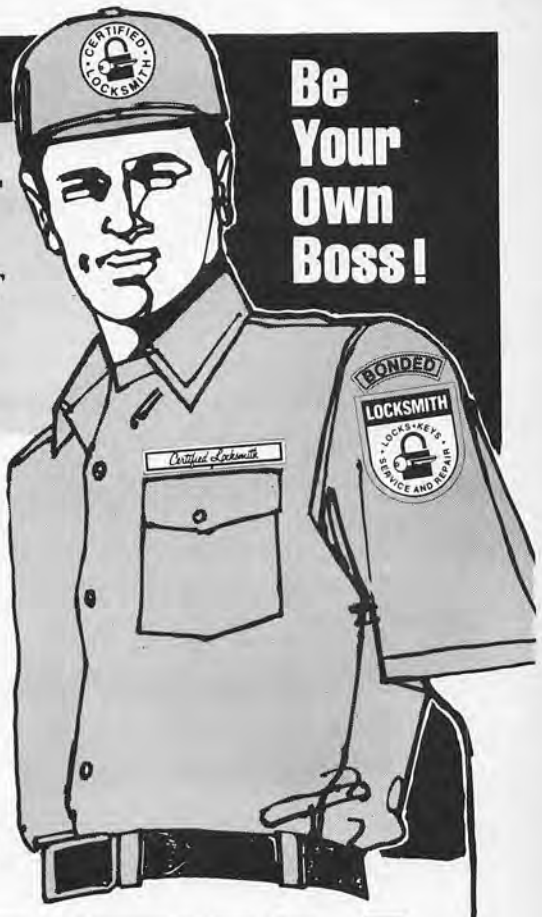

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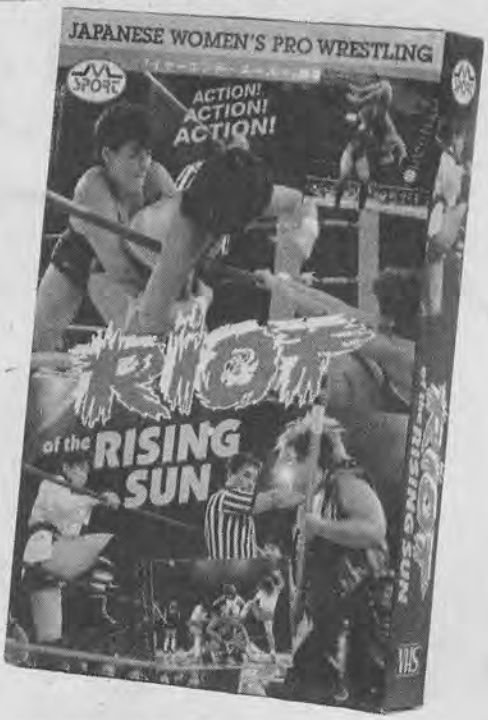

Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
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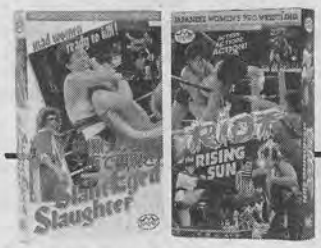

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THE REAL EXPRESS

It's about time you guys gave the "Original" Midnight Express the recognition they so rightfully deserve ("Wrestler Of The Month," February 1988). In my opinion, they are the *only* Midnight Express. I bet they'd show those punks in the NWA, Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, a thing or two. As a matter of fact, they would *pulverize* them. Also, I'm glad you said that just because they might be over the hill doesn't mean they haven't lost their killer instinct.

Paul E. Dangerously was the mastermind in reuniting Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose, and led them to winning the AWA World tag team title. All you fans pay attention to the "Original" Midnight Express. They are perfection, and how can you improve on perfection?

ARTHUR RISK JR.
Mt. Clemens, MI

IT'S A MISTAKE

Randy Savage made the worst mistake a rulebreaking wrestler could make when he became a friend of Hulk Hogan's on *Saturday Night's Main Event*. Savage was one of the last rulebreakers who could give the champ a run for his money. Now fans of the WWF are reduced to seeing

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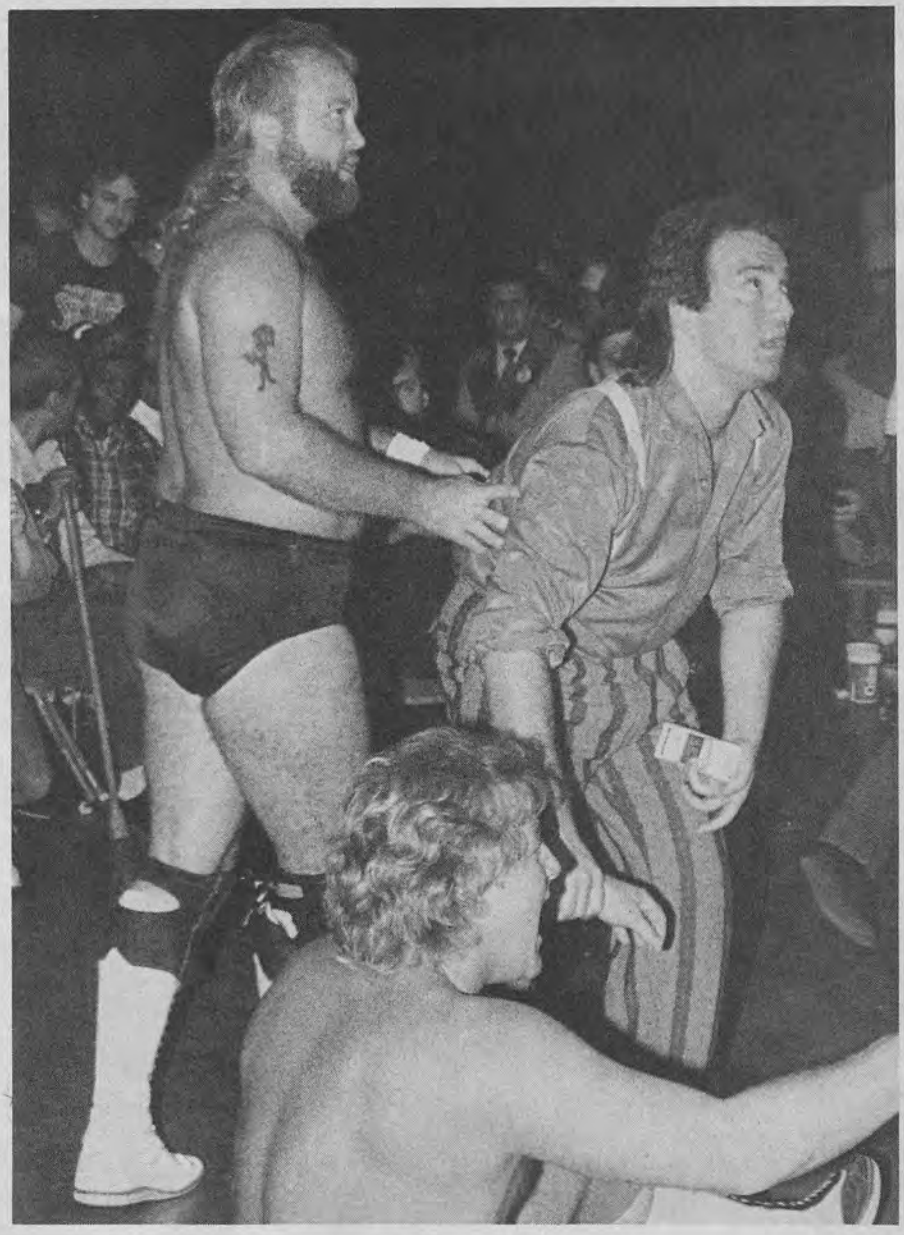

Paul E. Dangerously and The Midnight Express bide their time before getting back into the ring. Reader Arthur Risk thinks the AWA's Express is a much better team than the NWA's version. There is at least one factor in their favor: They possess a world title, while Jim Cornette's men don't.

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THE TATTLER

CALGARY, ALBERTA: Former archrivals Jason the Terrible and North American champion Owen Hart have formed one of the most unusual tag teams ever and have taken on Bad News Allen and Makhan Singh.

Jason and Hart formed the alliance following a match in which both men were counted out. Makhan Singh and Bad News Allen then attacked Jason, tore off his protective hockey mask, and delivered a savage beating until Hart finally saved his hated enemy. Singh and Allen then demanded a match against Jason and Hart.

"I realize I could be putting my career on the line by teaming with Jason, but it's something that has to be done," said Owen. "I believe there's a good side and a bad side to everyone, including Jason, and I'm willing to give him a chance." Others, however, including Owen's brother Bruce and tag team partner Brian Pillman, are worried about this potentially dangerous alliance. "I've advised Owen not to turn his back on Jason," said Pillman.

Hart appears to have the most to lose from teaming with Jason. In tag matches against Allen and Makhan Singh, Hart finds himself in the ring with three of his staunchest enemies—and top contenders for his North American title. Many fans feel Jason is a new man, and they point to his revolt against ex-manager The Zodiak as proof, but they know anything can happen. Jason is a madman and totally unpredictable.

So far there's been little cause for alarm. Hart and Jason won their first match against Allen and Singh in Calgary when Owen pinned Singh after 13 minutes of a wild brawl. The match poured into the stands on several occasions and Jason even

(Continued on page 48)

JASON THE TERRIBLE

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The Inquiring Reporter

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THE QUESTION:
"If you were WWF World champion, would you sell the title to Ted DiBiase for one million dollars?"

THE ANSWERS:
Barry Hauptman, St. Paul: "For a million? It depends on the situation. If I've been champion for a long time, I might think about selling it because I could be thinking about retiring anyway. But if I've only been champion for a few months, I don't think so. If you're a professional wrestler, being world champion is the ultimate achievement and you can't put a price on it. Besides, I'm not sure how right it is to sell a title. After all, a world championship doesn't belong to a wrestler, it belongs to the fans and all of wrestling."

Errol Ougzhan, North Bellmore, NY: "No way. It's just not right to sell the title, and I'm not sure it's legal, either—although Jack Tunney doesn't seem to be too sure about that. What a sham! How can it be legal to sell a world championship? How can it *not* be in the rules? This whole situation points out how ridiculous the WWF can be sometimes. It just leaves itself open to a man like DiBiase, who has no respect for the integrity of wrestling and the World title. I'm really glad

(Continued on page 50)

Andre the Giant reluctantly hands the WWF World title belt back to Hulk Hogan, but he apparently would gladly hand it over to Ted DiBiase—for the right price.

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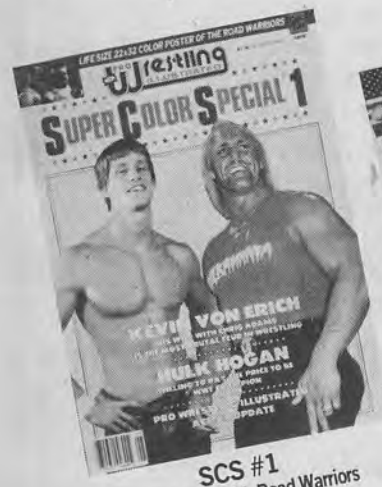
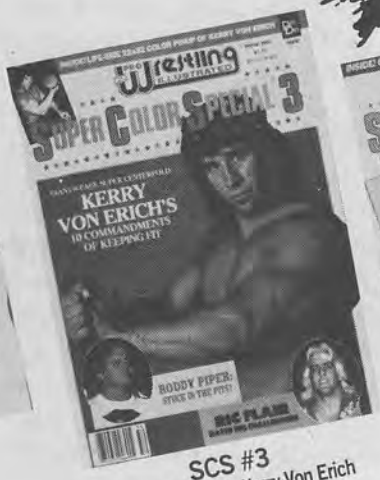
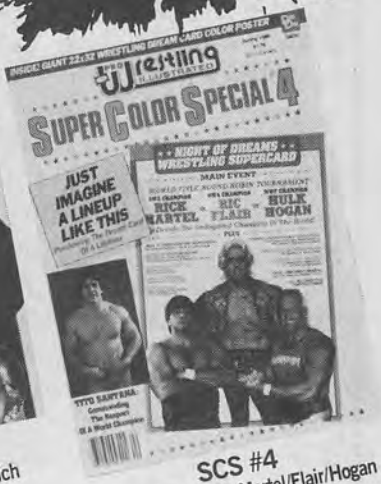


SCS #1
SuperCenterfold: Road Warriors

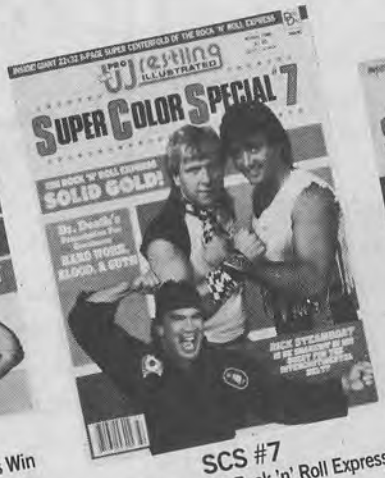


SCS #3
SuperCenterfold: Kerry Von Erich



SCS #4
SuperCenterfold: Martel/Flair/Hogan

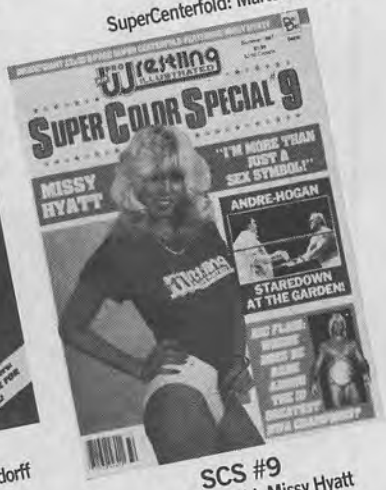
SCS #6
SuperCenterfold: Road Warriors Win Crockett Cup



SCS #7
SuperCenterfold: Rock 'n' Roll Express

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
SUPER COLOR SPECIAL 8
Magnum T.A.'s Tragic Accident: WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS . . . FOR THE NWA?
THE ANATOMY OF A FEUD!

SCS #8
SuperCenterfold: Hogan vs. Orndorff



SCS #9
SuperCenterfold: Missy Hyatt

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SCRAPBOOK

MARCH/APRIL 1968

BEARCAT WRIGHT ELIMINATED Ray Stevens to win an 18-man $7,000 battle royal at the San Francisco Cow Palace. The order of elimination was Rip Miller, Masked Demon II, Paul Diamond, Masked Demon I, Lord Blears, Pat Patterson, Tank Morgan, Art Thomas, Pepper Gomez, Cyclone Negro, Fred Blassie, Hahn Lee, King Curtis, Pedro Morales, Bobo Brazil, Great Malenko, and finally Stevens ... Pepper Gomez devised a prematch demonstration of his ability to absorb punishment in which he would have his tag team partner, Pedro Morales, climb to the top of a 15-foot ladder and jump on his chest ... A bloody feud developed between Southern tag team champions Johnny Weaver and George Becker and top challengers Gene and Lars Anderson ... California promoters considered adding a fourth ring rope to prevent wrestlers from falling out of the ring ... A poll of wrestlers concluded that Bulldog Brower was the toughest man in wrestling. Mad Dog Vachon finished second ... The Bruiser, frustrated at Gene Kiniski's refusal to give him a shot at the NWA title, asked the fans to begin a letter writing campaign demanding the match ... Kiniski surprised many experts by retaining his title against Edouard Carpentier ... Ricki Starr, one of the most uncommon wrestlers ever to grace the squared circle, was the most popular wrestler in England. And "grace" the squared circle he did: Starr combined wrestling with ballet moves to confuse his opponents! ... AWA champion Verne Gagne turned back the challenges of Doug Gilbert and Bob Orton Sr. ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Gene Kiniski; 2—Johnny Valentine; 3—Eddie Graham; 4—Lou Thesz; 5—Fritz Von Erich; 6—Wilbur Snyder; 7—Bulldog Brower; 8—Bob Orton Sr.; 9—Pat O'Connor; 10—Johnny Powers. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Gorilla Monsoon; 3—Hans Mortier; 4—Spiros Arion; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Miguel Perez; 7—Arnold Skaaland; 8—Bobo Brazil; 9—Bill Miller; 10—Luke Graham. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—The Sheik; 3—Larry Hennig; 4—Bruiser; 5—Wilbur Snyder; 6—Crusher; 7—Mad Dog Vachon; 8—Doug Gilbert; 9—Reggie Parks; 10—Blackjack Lanza. TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—The Assassins; 3—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 4—Larry Hennig & Harley Race; 5—George & Sandy Scott; 6—The Kentuckians; 7—Kenji Shibuya & Mitsu Arawkawa; 8—Fritz & Waldo Von Erich; 9—John & Chris Tolos; 10—George Becker & Johnny Weaver.

Gene Anderson, kingpin of the infamous Anderson clan, gives Johnny Weaver a backbreaker. In 1968, Weaver and George Becker were the Southern tag team champions, and their number-one challengers were Gene and Lars Anderson.

MARCH/APRIL 1973

NWA CHAMPION DORY Funk Jr. was hospitalized with a concussion and multiple lacerations to the face and scalp when he drove his pickup truck over a six-foot bank and into a creek while rounding up cattle at his Texas ranch. Funk's title obligations were assumed by Jack Brisco ... Funk's last match before the accident was a technical draw against Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods. In that match, Woods fell to the concrete floor after bounding into the loose ropes. Though Funk was declared the winner, the champion asked the referee to change the decision to a draw and offered Woods a rematch ... The wrestling community mourned the death of Southeast

(Continued on page 56)

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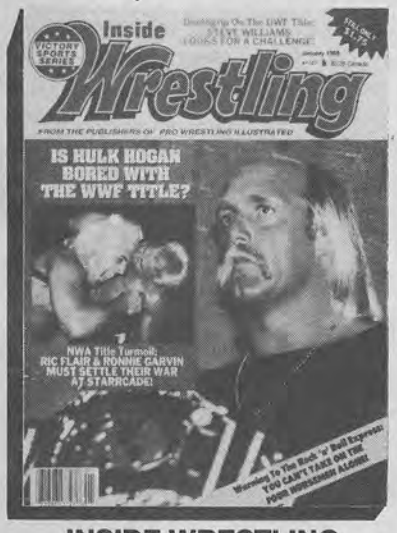
Inside Wrestling
VICTORY SPORTS SERIES
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
IS HULK HOGAN BORED WITH THE WWF TITLE?
NWA Title Turmoil: RIC FLAIR & RONNIE GARVIN MUST SETTLE THEIR WAR AT STARRCADE!
Wrestling To The Rock 'n' Roll Express: YOU CAN'T TAKE ON THE FOUR HORSEMEN ALONE!

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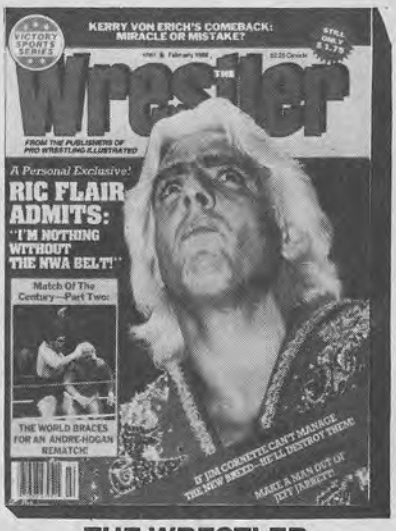
KERRY VON ERICH'S COMEBACK: MIRACLE OR MISTAKE?
VICTORY SPORTS SERIES
The Wrestler
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
A Personal Exclusive!
RIC FLAIR ADMITS: "I'M NOTHING WITHOUT THE NWA BELT!"
Match Of The Century—Part Two:
THE WORLD BRACES FOR AN ANDRE-HOGAN REMATCH!
IF JIM CORNETTE CAN'T MANAGE THE NEW BREED—HE'LL DESTROY THEM!
MAKE A MAN OUT OF JEFF JARRETT!

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TOP WRESTLE
YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

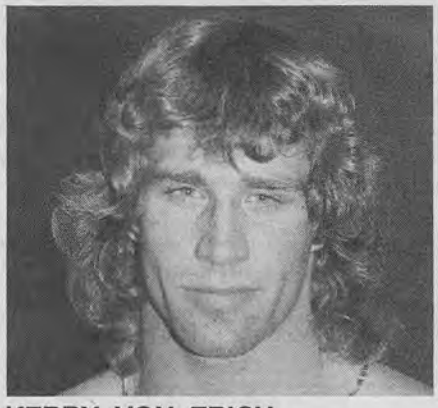
THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Do you feel that there should be another referee outside the ring during title matches?"

Submitted by:
John Burnett
Palm Bay, FL

CURT HENNIG
"Are you kidding? Haven't you ever heard the expression, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'? One referee has been enough for all the wrestlers who came before me, and one should be enough for the sport in the future. I don't know where you come up with these idiotic ideas, but this one has got to be the silliest one you've pulled out of the hat in a long time."

STING
"I'm not crazy about the idea, but it may be necessary. Ric Flair recently beat me in an NWA World title match by holding the ropes. It's easy to take advantage of one referee, especially if he's not very good. Maybe another ref outside of the ring would have caught it, maybe not. But the odds of slipping something like that past two referees would be real slim."



KERRY VON ERICH
"I'd like to see something like that started on a trial basis. A lot of refs can't give a three-count and watch for feet on the ropes at the same time, let alone watch for outside interference. The way wrestling's changed, I don't think one referee can do the job all by himself. Having a backup referee would keep people like Al Perez and Gary Hart a little more honest."

GREG GAGNE
"I'm totally for it. Let's face it, if we had another ref in my match with Curt Hennig, I would be champion by now. But that's not the only reason. I'm sure that a lot of wrestlers would fight it to the death, because it would cut down their opportunities to cheat. Then we'd really see what some of these guys are made of when they have to walk the straight and narrow."

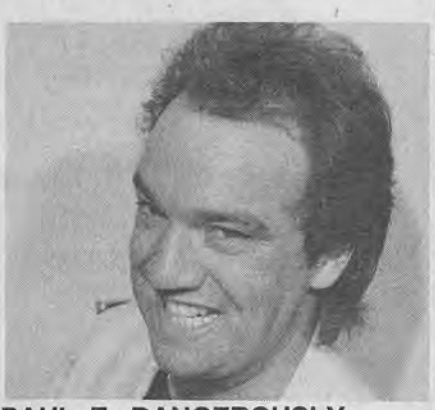
RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH

ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

"That's an idea that may look good to people who haven't tasted the heat of combat, but it won't work. A real wrestler doesn't need a referee to watch his back, and most referees couldn't do it anyway. I feel that way even though me and Animal were cheated out of some victories because the ref was knocked out. That's part of the game, though, and I wouldn't change it."

RIC FLAIR

"This styler and profiler believes that he who referees least referees best! The fans come out to see action, not words, and putting another referee outside the ring will just slow down the action even more. It's unrealistic to expect two referees will see things the same way. But if you like to see reversed decisions, titles held up, and lots of controversy, then it's a great idea!"

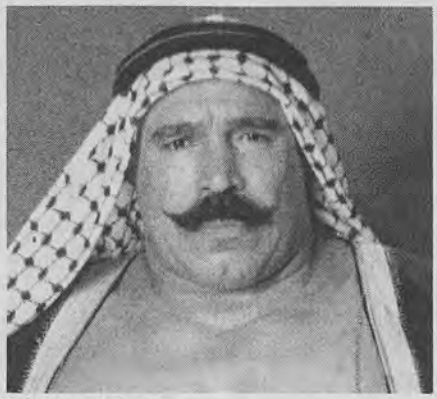


PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY

"You want to take a bad situation and make it worse? Referees *already* have too much power. And some of them are so biased, I fear them more than some of my men's opponents. Their incompetence and failure to catch cheating have already caused me plenty of sleepless nights. So rather than compound the damage by doubling the problem, I prefer to take matters into my own hands."

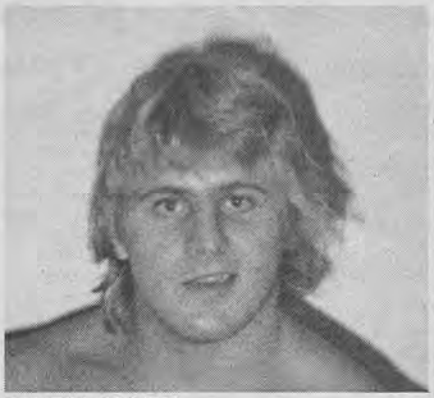
RICK HAZZARD

"Well, you know I've been on both sides of this one, having been both a ref and a wrestler. Having another ref would cut down on the cheating and illegal moves. But for the system to really work, both refs would have to work together in perfect harmony. If they don't, it'll just lead to more confusion and controversy. That's the bottom line—the two refs will have to work together."



IRON SHEIK

"Mr. Reporter, intelligent American people know that Sheik is great wrestler, with many competes in Olympics, Pan American games, and professional circuits, but not champion because referees no like Iran, no like Ayatollah, and no like Sheik because of this. So how will having two referees help Sheik? You tell me that, mister wrestling reporter, then I will like your idea."



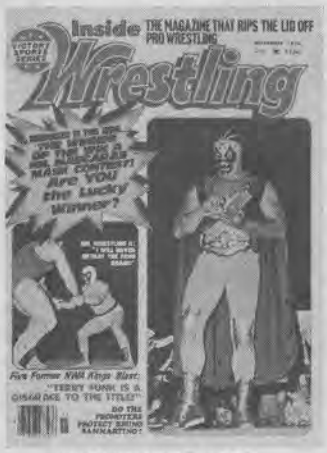
OWEN HART

"I can't speak for other federations, but I don't think we need that, because the three-card system the referees use up here in the Stampede area works pretty well. One yellow card for the first time you break the rules, then another the second time, then a red card meaning disqualification. If someone really breaks the rules, they get a black card and automatic suspension."

BACK ISSUES OF

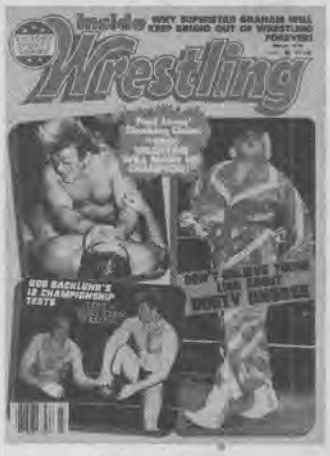
Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of INSIDE WRESTLING, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.
September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.
November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.
August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.
September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.
February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.
March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.
April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.
August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.
September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.
October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.



NOVEMBER 1976

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.
December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.
January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.
August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.
September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.
October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.
November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.
December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

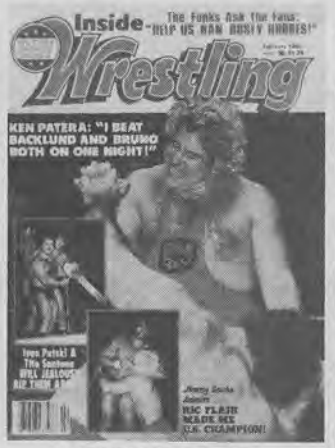


MARCH 1978

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.
April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.
August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.
October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.
November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

DECEMBER 1978

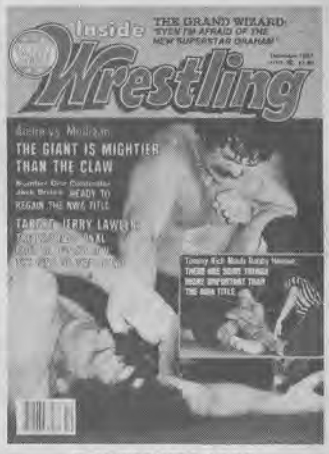
January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.
February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.
April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.
May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.
June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.
July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.
August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.
September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.



FEBRUARY 1980

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

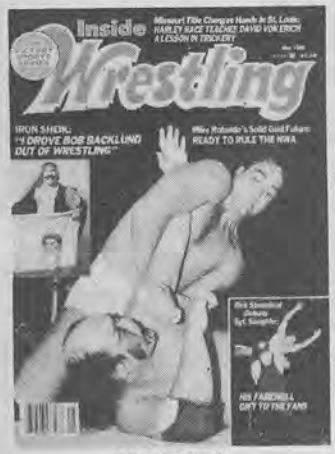
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.



DECEMBER 1982

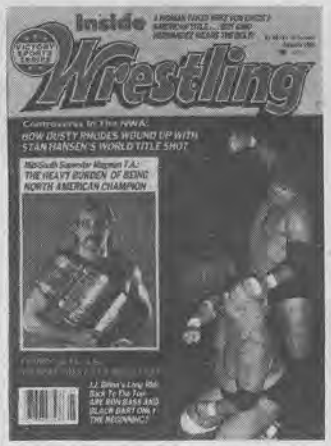
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.



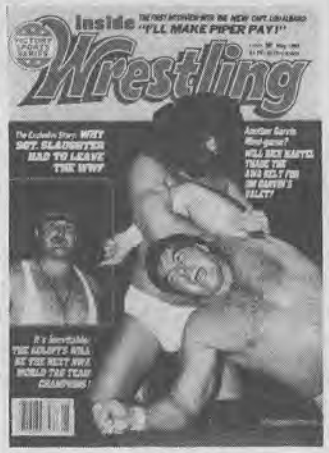
MAY 1984

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.


Inside
Wrestling
HOW DUSTY RHODES WOUND UP WITH STAN HANSEN'S WORLD TITLE SHOT
THE HEAVY BURDEN OF BEING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION

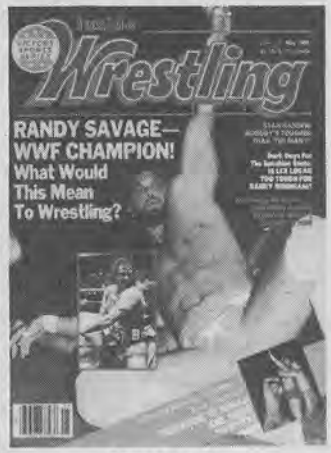
JANUARY 1985

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.



MAY 1985

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts



MAY 1986

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestle-Mania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre,Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

NOVEMBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

GREG GAGNE

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID, never a bride. Can't win the big one. Folds in the clutch. Choke artist.

These are time-honored (some might say timeworn) cliches in the world of sports, part of a vast arsenal of words designed to level an unsympathetic attack against a perennial number-two man or team, though any athlete worth his salt hates to be referred to in such terms, either by fans or by sportswriters.

Once an athlete or a team acquires this reputation, it becomes agonizingly difficult to shed. The best way to get rid of it is to score a major victory; the longer the odds the better.

Just ask the Minnesota Vikings, who exceeded everybody's expectations in this year's NFL playoffs. Their accomplishments will go a long way toward wiping out the unpleasant memories of the team's record four Super Bowl losses in the last decade, an evil rep that has made the purple-clad gridders the virtual textbook example of a team that "can't win the big one."

Another Minnesotan has also succeeded in silencing the critics. Since 1974 (the same year the Vikes dropped their second Super Bowl to the Pittsburgh Steelers), Greg Gagne has mounted a futile quest for an AWA singles title—most notably the World heavyweight title. There's been no doubt of Gagne's wrestling talents themselves, but somehow—through a combination of bad luck and unfavorable circumstances—he just couldn't win the big one.

In his early years as a pro, Greg fought for respect more than titles. He quickly earned it through his impeccable demeanor and his respect for both the rulebook and the fans. And, like his current archrival Curt Hennig, Greg had to overcome the shadow of a superstar father in order to carve out his own identity.

But, unlike Hennig, Gagne has always played by the rules in his quest for accomplishment. That fact alone renders his AWA International TV title victory over Adrian Adonis a highly admirable accomplishment—and worthy of this issue's "Wrestler of the Month" honor.

For much of his career, Gagne's quest for singles glory was hampered by his heavy emphasis on tag team wrestling. He achieved tag team greatness in the late '70s when he held the AWA tag team title on several occasions with partner Jim Brunzell. When Brunzell left for the WWF, however, Gagne was left alone without his best and most successful partner.

But Gagne never stopped shooting for the singles success many observers felt he was capable of attaining. He has come into his own in the last few months, debunking the critics who have seen him as too much of a lightweight to win a solo championship.

Toward the end of 1987, Gagne was engaged in a stirring series of AWA World title challenges to champion Curt Hennig. Hennig won their Thanksgiving match when his father, Larry, interfered on his behalf. Gagne won the Christmas night match—but not the title—when his father, Verne, hit the younger Hennig with a roll of coins.

Rather than become discouraged, Gagne set his sights on another goal: the newly established AWA International TV title.

In Las Vegas, two days after Christmas, Gagne hit the jackpot when he defeated Adrian Adonis via disqualification in the finals of a tournament. It marked the first singles title of Gagne's career.

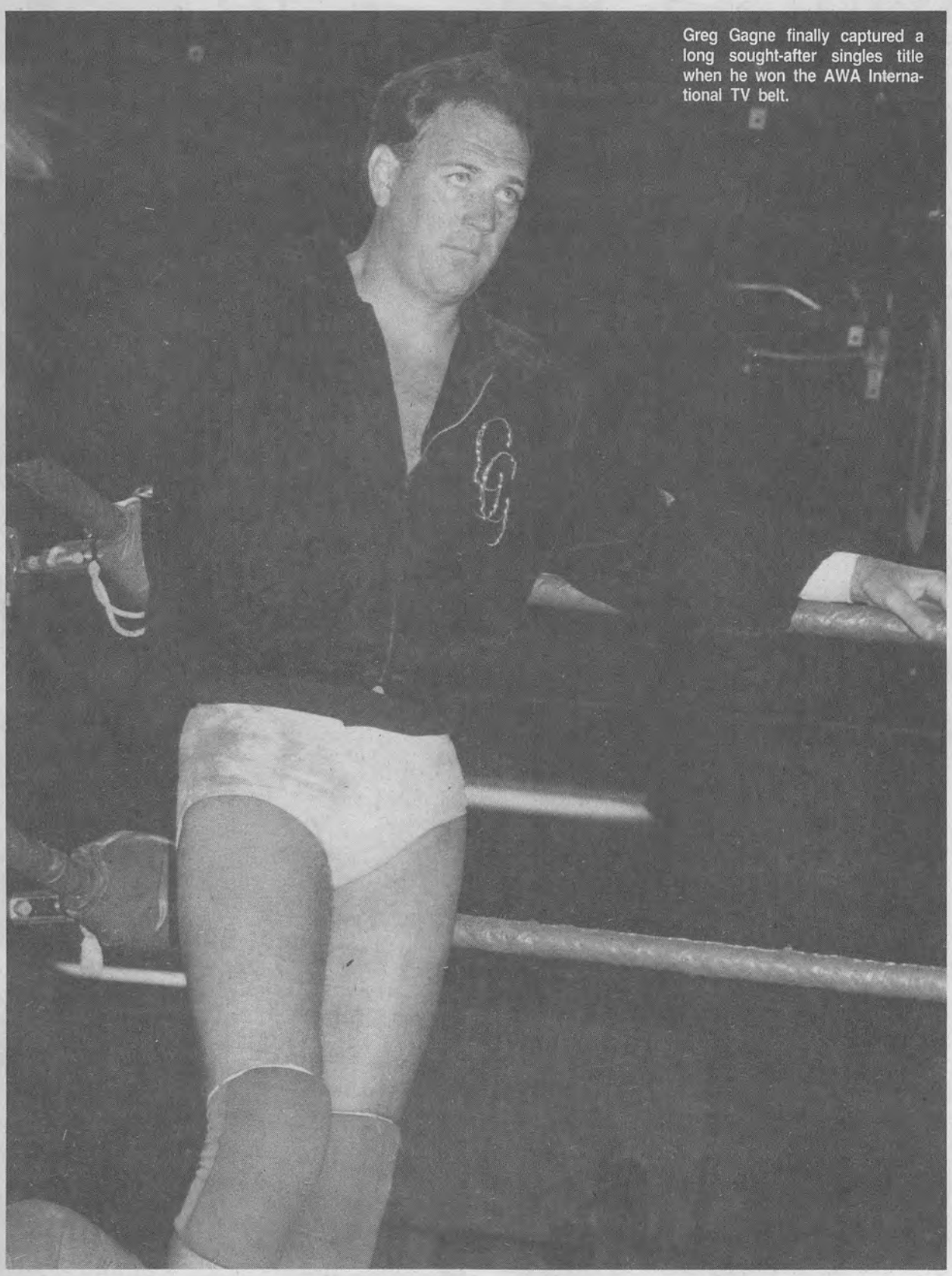
In scoring the win, Greg has succeeded in shedding his reputation for being unable to win the big match. It gladdens our hearts to think that one of our sport's most talented and admirable members has finally earned a title worthy of his position in the sport. With Greg defending it, the AWA International TV title should soon become one of the most respected singles belts in the sport.

The tournament victory has also added new impetus to Gagne's pursuit of the AWA World title. Indeed, the more experience Gagne receives as a singles champion, the more confidence and self-respect he'll gain, and the better his chances will become to unseat Hennig for the World belt. And while he must make several defenses of his TV belt each month, Gagne—who certainly doesn't lack for confidence at this point—has resolved to keep after Hennig.

"I know that I can defend the TV title and still go after Hennig," Gagne said shortly after his Las Vegas victory. "I'm sure that I can make more than the mandatory share of title defenses of the TV belt and still beat Hennig for the heavyweight title."

Many observers feel that if both Larry and Verne stay out of the fray, Greg will be victorious in his quest for the World belt. If Gagne suceeds in capturing both titles, it will be a feat worthy of "Wrestler of the Year" honors.

For now, Greg—no longer saddled with the designation of "choke artist"—can revel in the praise that comes from being chosen *Sports Review Wrestling's* "Wrestler of the Month." □



Greg Gagne finally captured a long sought-after singles title when he won the AWA International TV belt.

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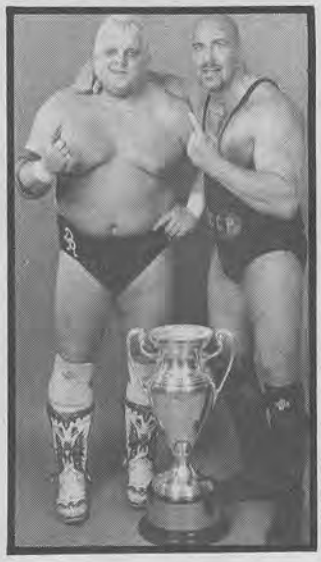
THE YEAR 1987 IN PICTURES

A TURNING POINT in wrestling history. When wrestling historians look back on 1987, that's how they'll remember a year filled with great events, stunning moments, the advent of wrestling in pay-per-view TV, the death of a major federation, and tragedy.

WrestleMania III in March set a North American indoor attendance record when over 93,000 fans packed the Pontiac Silverdome to see Hulk Hogan successfully defend his WWF World heavyweight title against former friend Andre the Giant. Hundreds of thousands more paid from $15 to $20 to watch on pay-per-view TV, making WrestleMania III the richest event in wrestling history.



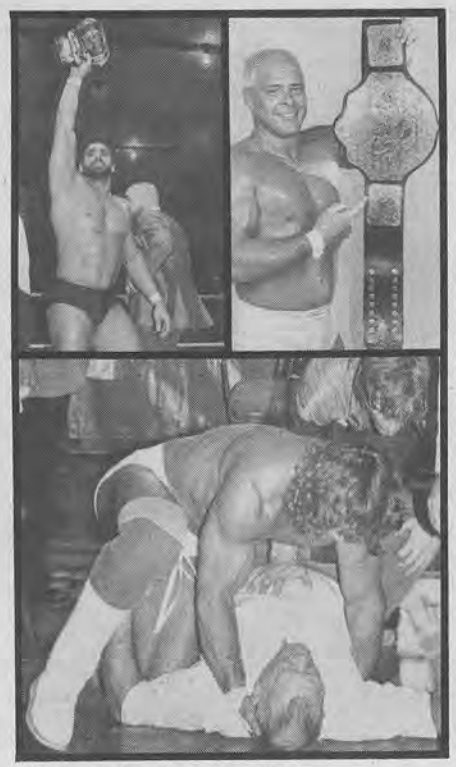
Weeks later, in Baltimore, the NWA had its spring supercard, the second annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament, won by Nikita Koloff and Dusty Rhodes. The two-day event was highlighted by the appearance of Magnum T.A., who only six months earlier had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. When Magnum walked to the ring, the crowd stood, cheered, and cried.

And so much more happened in '87:

On Thanksgiving, the NWA and WWF went head to head on pay-per-view TV when the WWF ran its inaugural Survivor Series card opposite the NWA's annual Starrcade extravaganza. The WWF won this battle, but the war will continue in 1988.

In the ring, Ronnie Garvin won the NWA World title from Ric Flair in September, but lost it back to Flair two months later at Starrcade. Hulk Hogan strengthened his hold on the WWF World title. The Honky Tonk Man stunned everyone by winning the Intercontinental belt from Rick Steamboat. Dusty Rhodes finally won the U.S. championship. Nikita Koloff won the unified NWA/UWF TV belt. Curt Hennig used dishonest methods to win and defend the AWA World title. Kerry Von Erich returned to the ring and, days later, teamed with his brother Kevin to win the World Class tag team belts. War Games became wrestling's newest, and most exciting, innovation.

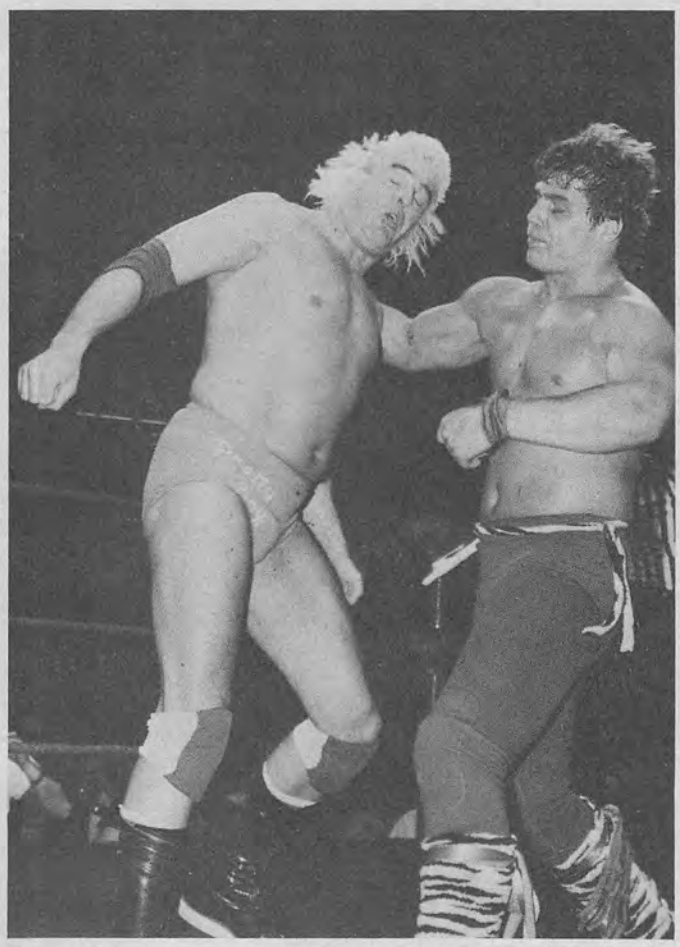
Outside the ring, Paul E. Dangerously emerged as one of the most brilliant managerial minds in the game. Lex Luger came to the NWA, joined The Four Horsemen, and turned against them in early December. Ted DiBiase tried to buy the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan. The Florida-based wrestling promotion folded and, months later, the UWF merged with the NWA. Stampede wrestling gained recognition.



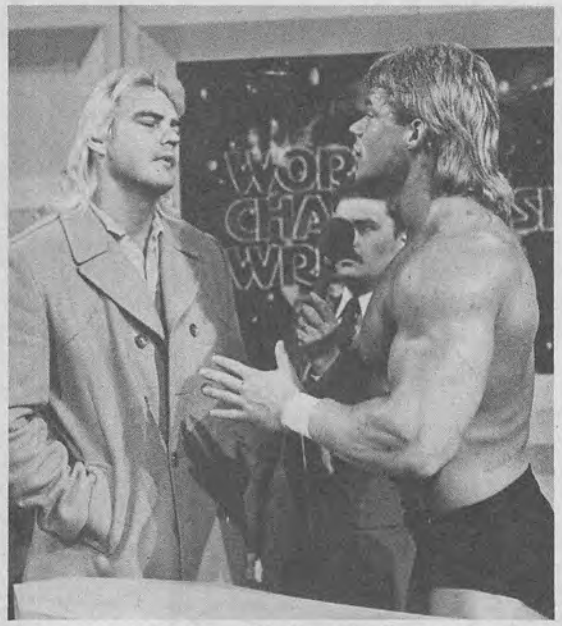
There were also the tragedies of '87: The wrestling world mourned the suicide of 23-year-old Mike Von Erich, who died on April 12 in Lake Lewisville, Texas. Mad Dog Vachon had part of his leg amputated after he was hit by a car in Des Moines, Iowa. In England, veteran King Kong Kirk died as the result of ring injuries.

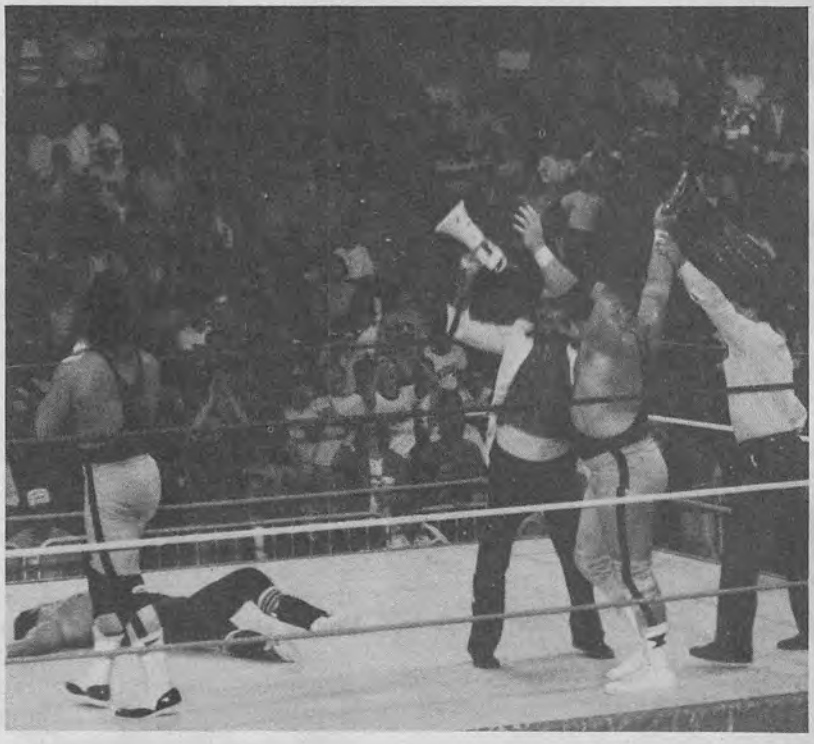
It was a year that saw unparalleled thrills and excitement for fans of the greatest sport of all. And on the pages that follow, all the action and history of 1987 is captured in a photographic extravaganza that can only be presented by *Sports Review Wrestling.*

JANUARY



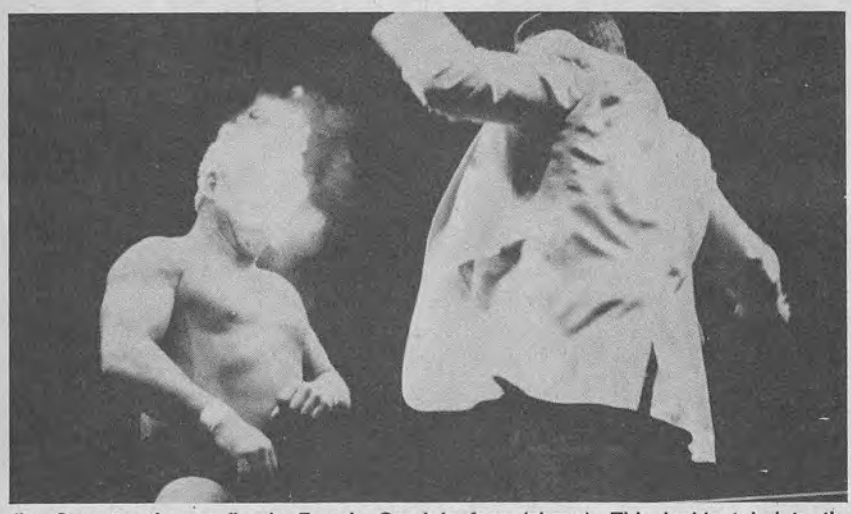
Shawn Michaels forearms Doug Somers (above); The Midnight Rockers won the AWA tag title from Somers and Buddy Rose. Andre the Giant challenges Hulk Hogan for the WWF title (top right). Jerry Lawler has AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel in trouble (right).

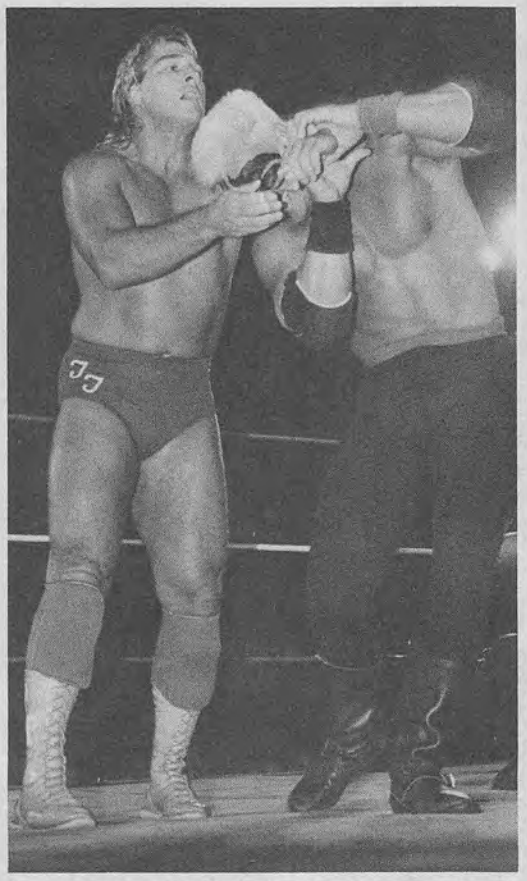




Lex Luger tells Barry Windham he has no business advising him not to join The Four Horsemen (above). Jimmy Hart celebrates as The Hart Foundation wins the WWF tag team title from The British Bulldogs (right).

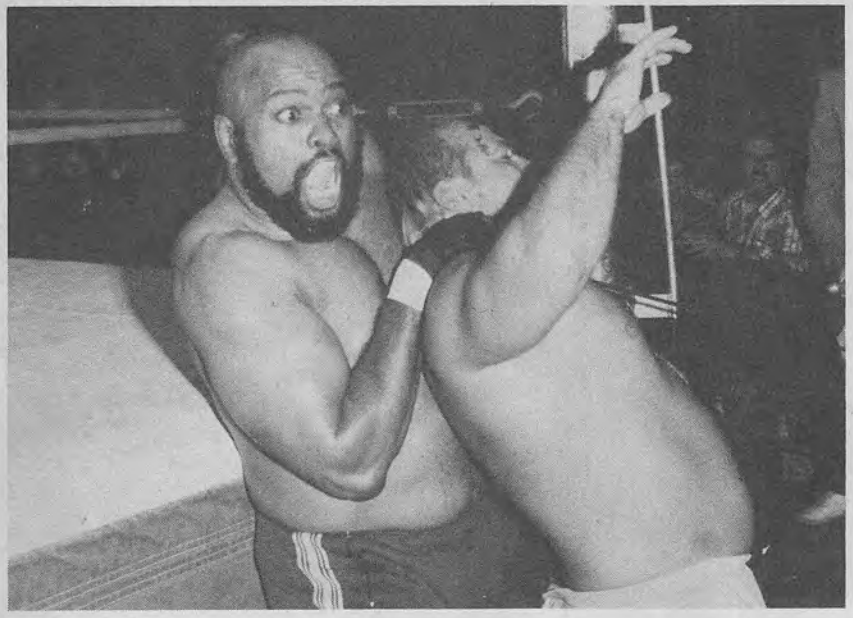
FEBRUARY

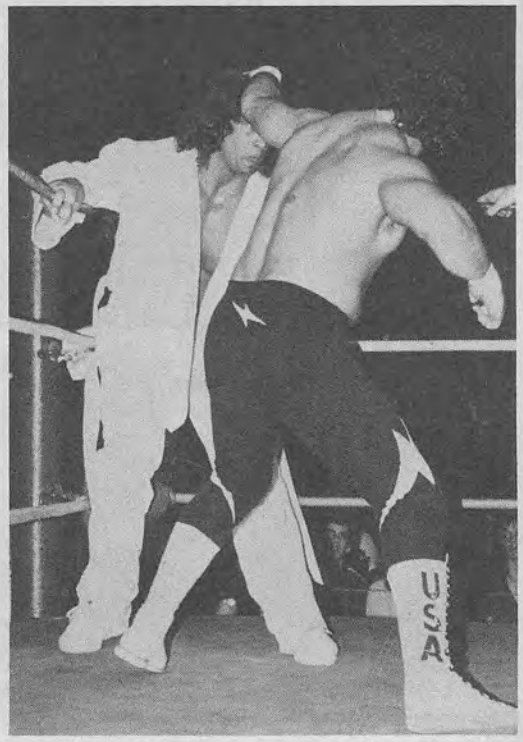




A newcomer to World Class, Jeep Swenson, humiliates David Manning by dumping him in the cheap seats at The Sportatorium (top left). Terry Taylor controls Sting (above). Taylor and Chris Adams won the UWF tag team title from Sting and Rick Steiner, but later split up.

Jim Cornette throws fire in Ronnie Garvin's face (above). This incident led to the reuniting of the Garvin brothers. Bad News Allen chokes Kevin Sullivan (below), but could not retain the Southern title. Brian Adias pummels Kerry Von Erich, who was making a premature comeback (right).





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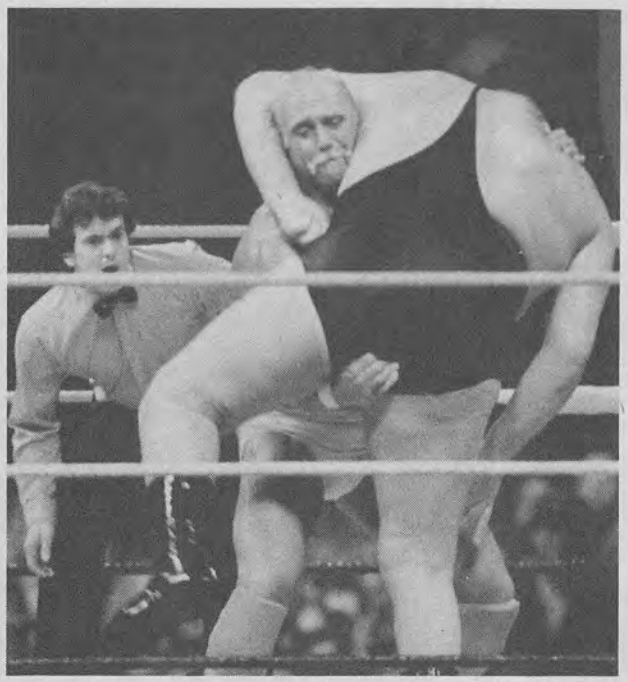
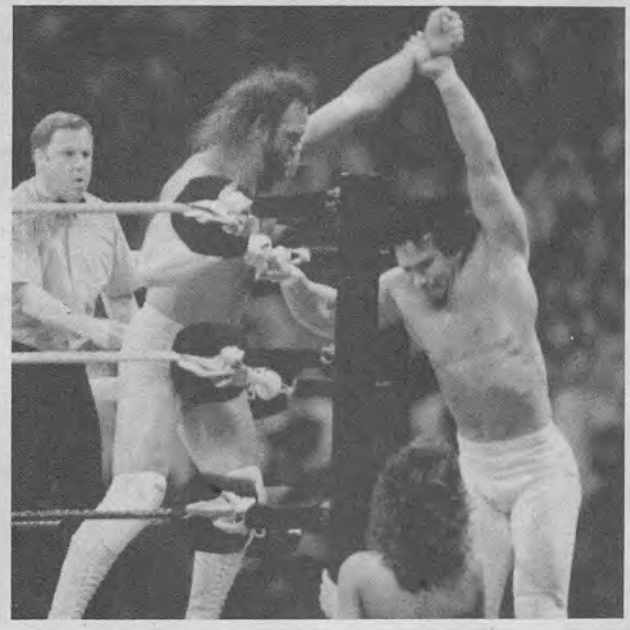


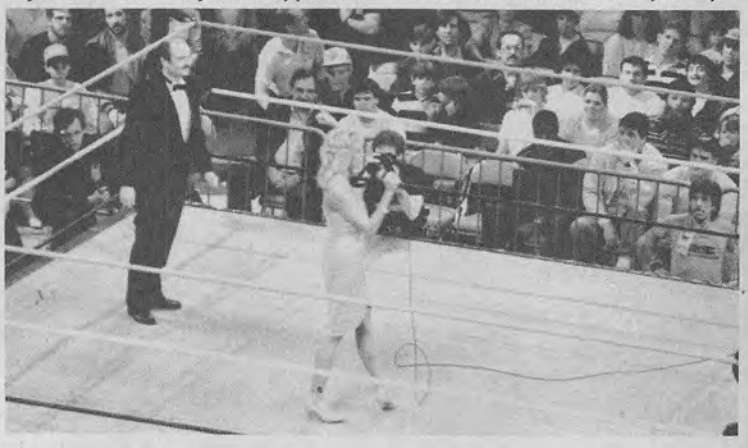
Two great moments from WrestleMania III: Hulk Hogan slams Andre the Giant (above); Randy Savage tussles with Rick Steamboat as Elizabeth watches (below).



Ole Anderson smacks J.J. Dillon after the manager questioned his commitment to The Four Horsemen (above). The incident prompted an Ole-Horsemen feud.

Bam Bam Bigelow pulls Tommy Rich away from the ring (above). Bigelow was suspended from the Mid-Southern area for intentionally injuring Rich's groin. He never returned.

Road Warrior Animal chinlocks Genichiro Tenryu (above); the Warriors won the International tag team title from Tenryu and Jumbo Tsuruta. Missy Hyatt makes a very brief appearance as a WWF commentator (below).



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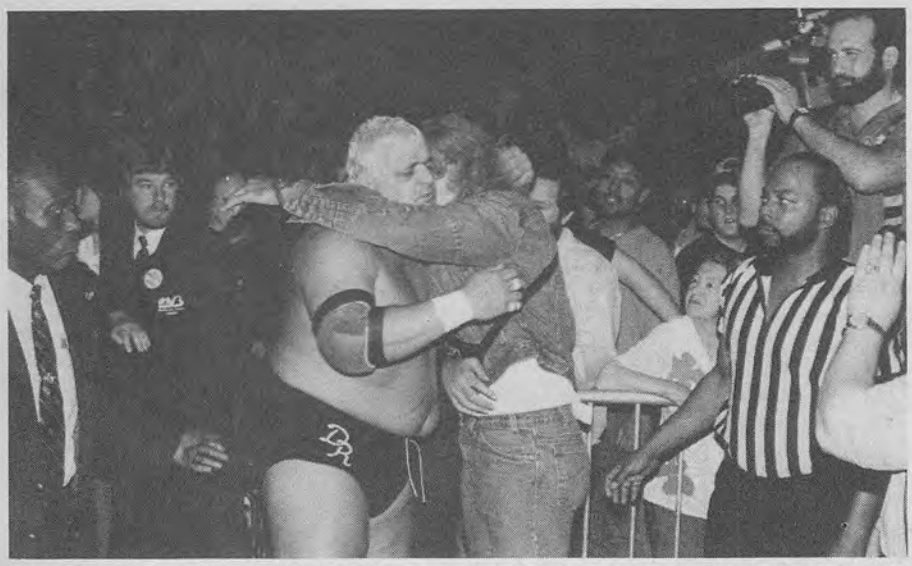
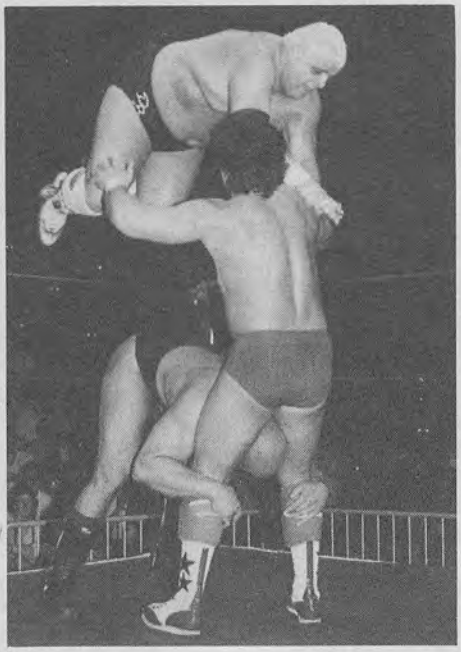
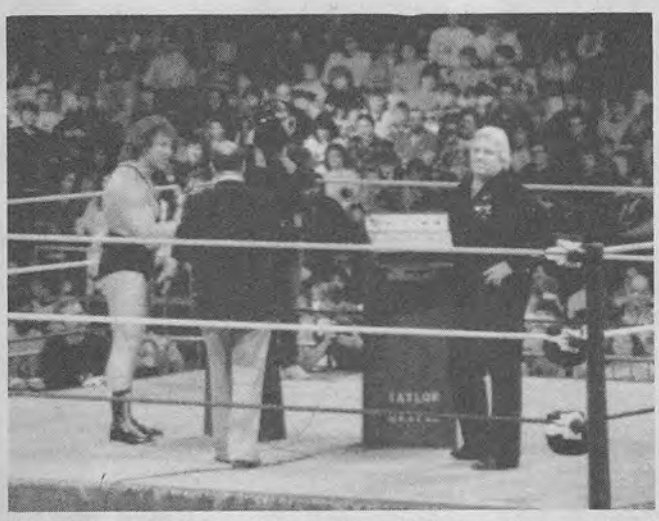
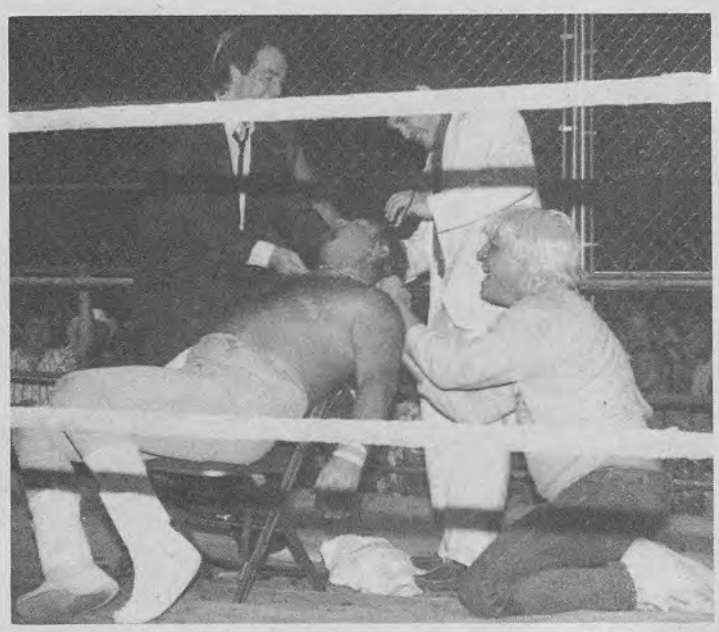




Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. share an emotional embrace prior to the final match of the Crockett Cup tag team tournament (above). The million-dollar move: With Nikita Koloff's help, Dusty executes a flying bodypress on Tully Blanchard (right).

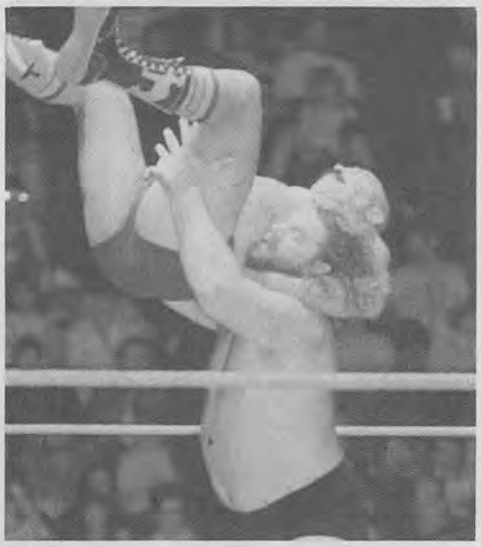
Gen. Skandor Akbar brags about Big Bubba Rogers, who won the UWF title after leaving Jim Cornette's employ (above). Wrestling mourns the loss of Mike Von Erich (right).



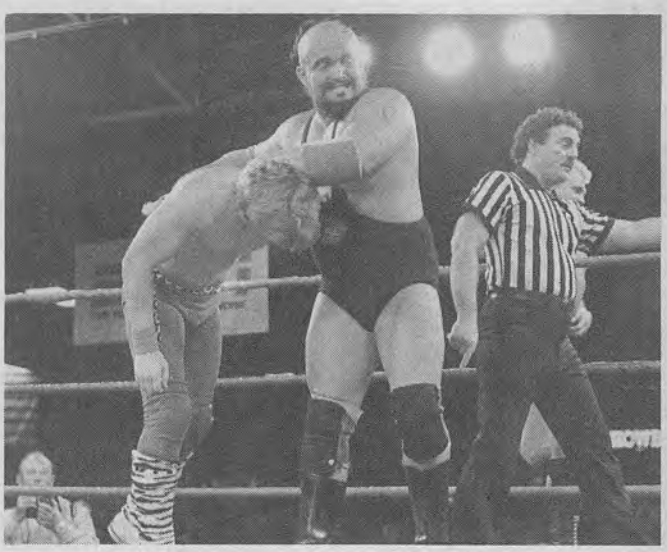


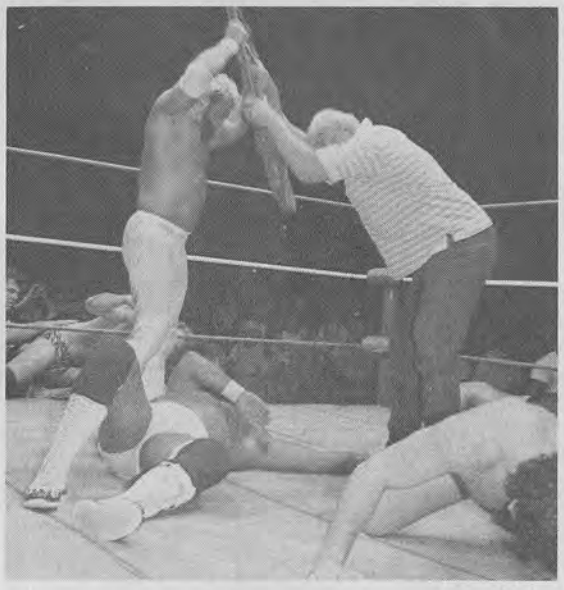
Ken Patera and Bobby Heenan stage their own "great debate" (above); the war of words ended with Heenan nearly having his neck broken. Paul E. Dangerously and Tommy Rich gloat as Jerry Lawler's head is shaved (right).

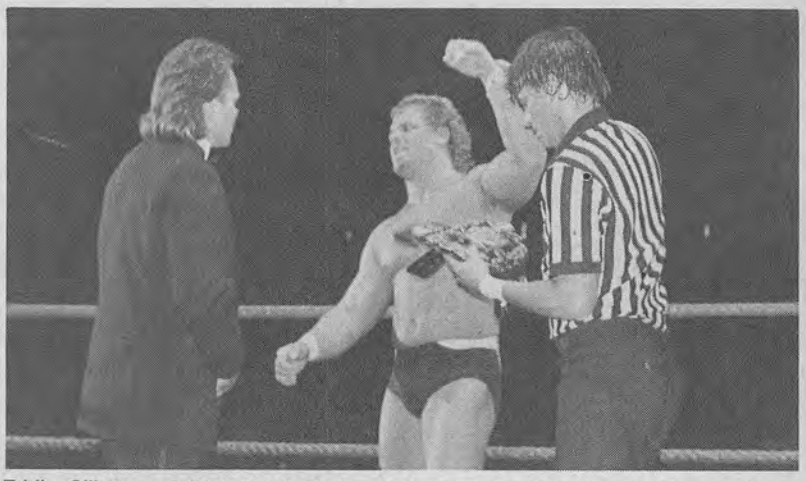
MAY



Hacksaw Duggan suplexes The Iron Sheik (left); the two were arrested for drug possession and kicked out of the WWF, but later returned. Boris Zukhov ties up Shawn Michaels (right); Zukhov and Soldat Ustinov upset The Midnight Rockers to win the AWA tag belts.



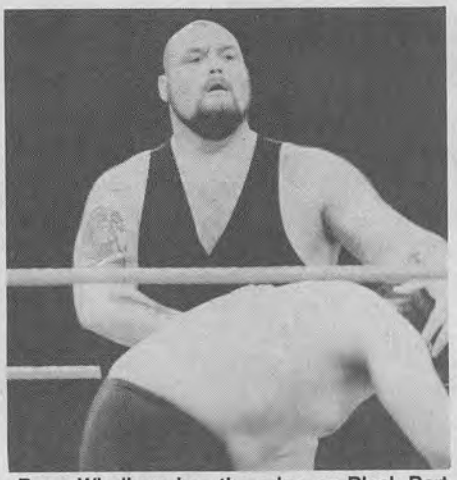




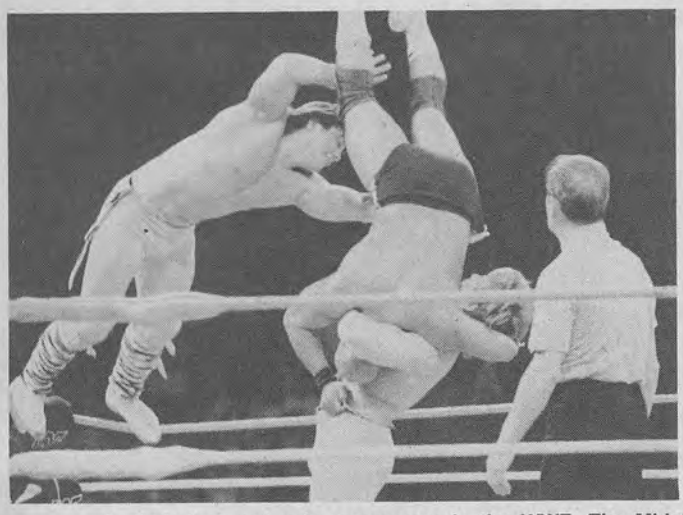
Eddie Gilbert and Dick Murdoch break the arm of "Dr. Death" Steve Williams (left). Larry Zbyszko congratulates Curt Hennig as he is awarded the AWA World title belt after beating Nick Bockwinkel (above); Zbyszko had hit Bockwinkel with a roll of coins, but the referee's original decision was upheld.

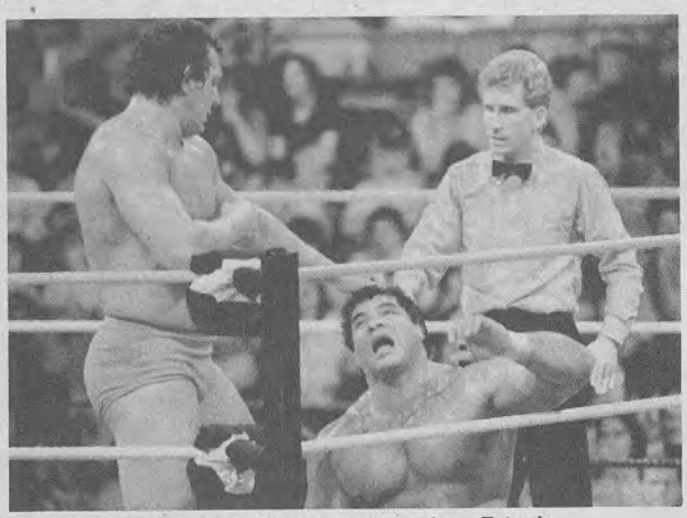
Jim Cornette accidentally whacks Stan Lane with his tennis racket (above); despite the error, The Midnight Express won the U.S. tag title. Days after his brother Mike's death, Kevin Von Erich wrestles a successful match against Nord the Barbarian (right).

JUNE

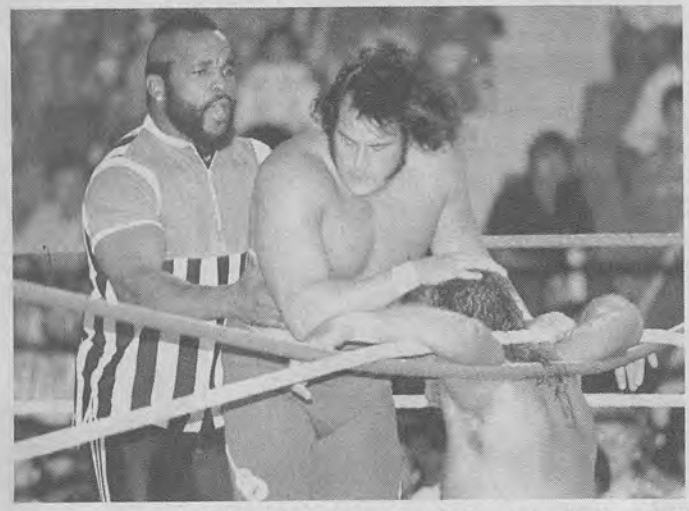


Barry Windham has the edge on Black Bart during the finals of the Western States title tournament (left). Bam Bam Bigelow arrives in the WWF (above). Magnum T.A. keeps Dark Journey away from the money at the Dusty Rhodes-Tully Blanchard $100,000 challenge match (right).



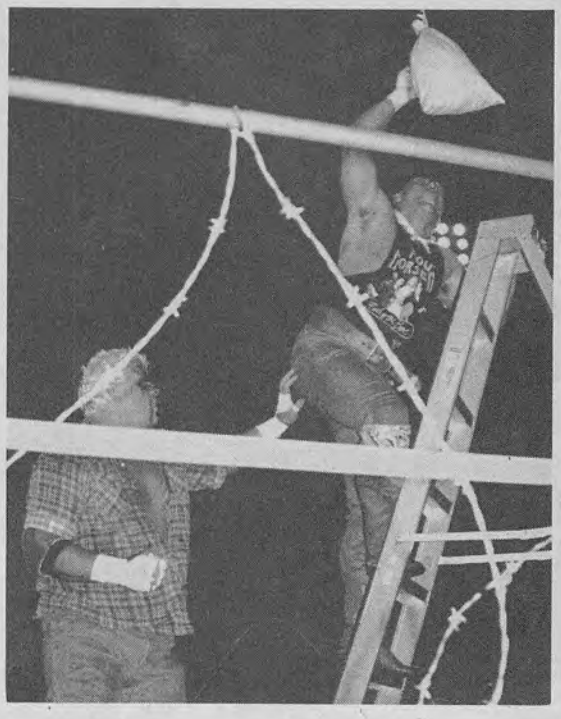


In their first and only appearance in the WWF, The Midnight Rockers execute their "rockerplex" on Jose Estrada (above left). Bob Orton has Magnificent Muraco on his knees (above right); their partnership ended in 1987.

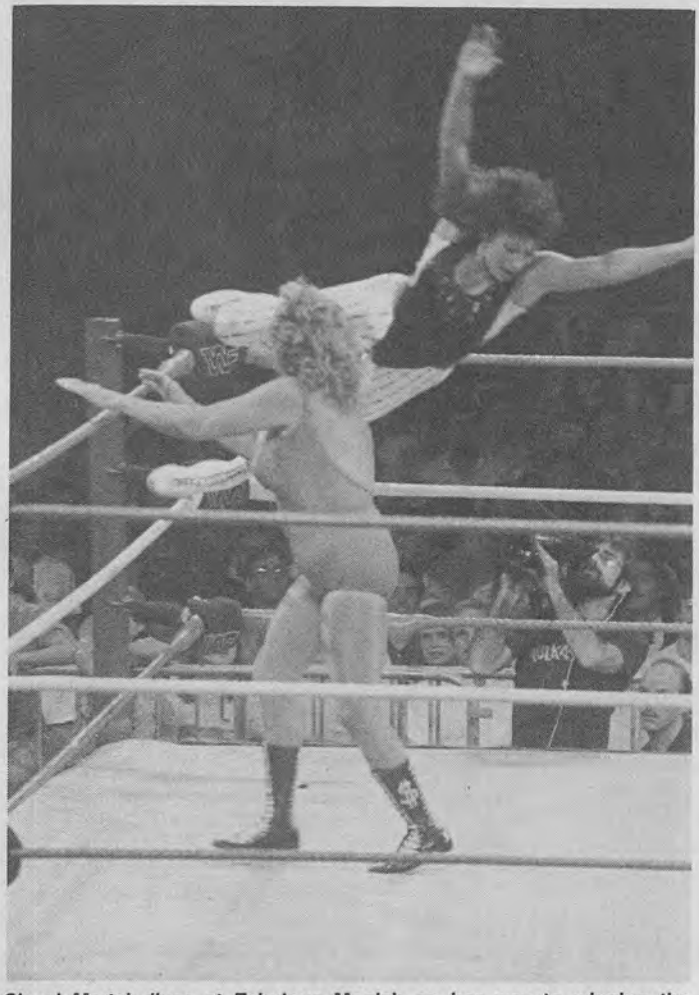


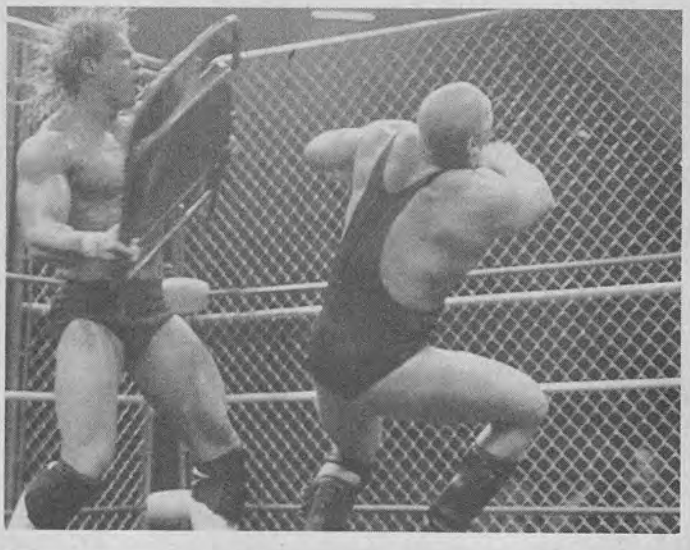
Mr. T, in his brief stint as a referee, instructs The Honky Tonk Man to back away from Jake Roberts (above left). Robert Gibson bridges up on Rick Rude (above right); The Rock 'n' Roll Express regained the NWA tag title from Rude and Manny Fernandez.

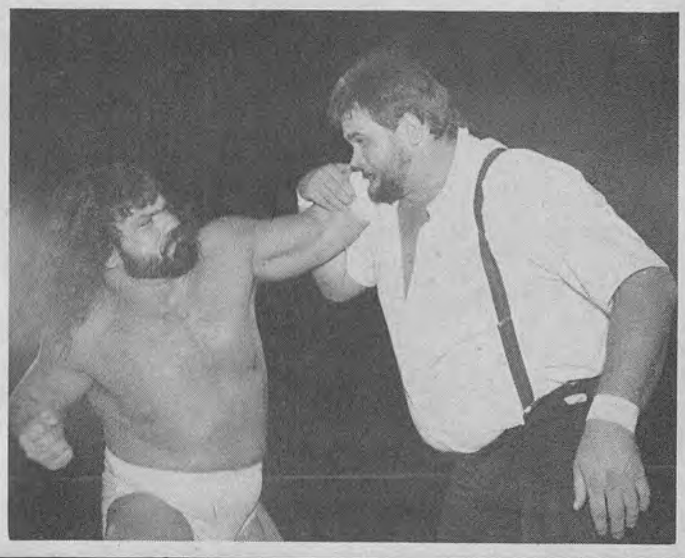
JULY



Paul E. Dangerously and The "Original" Midnight Express have a few parting words for their foes (above); after he was fired from Jim Cornette's Express, Dennis Condrey joined his old partner Randy Rose. Tully Blanchard almost reaches the money, but Dusty Rhodes pulls him back and wins this challenge match (right).

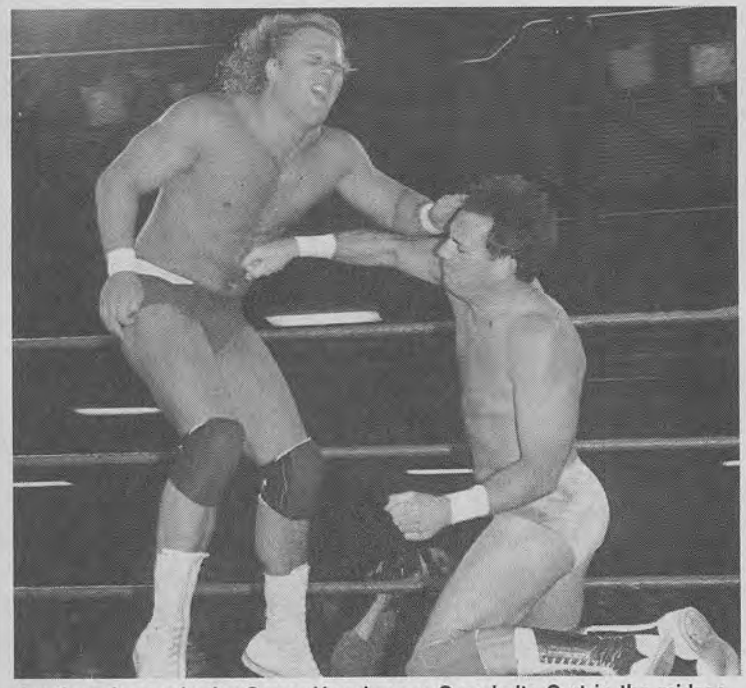


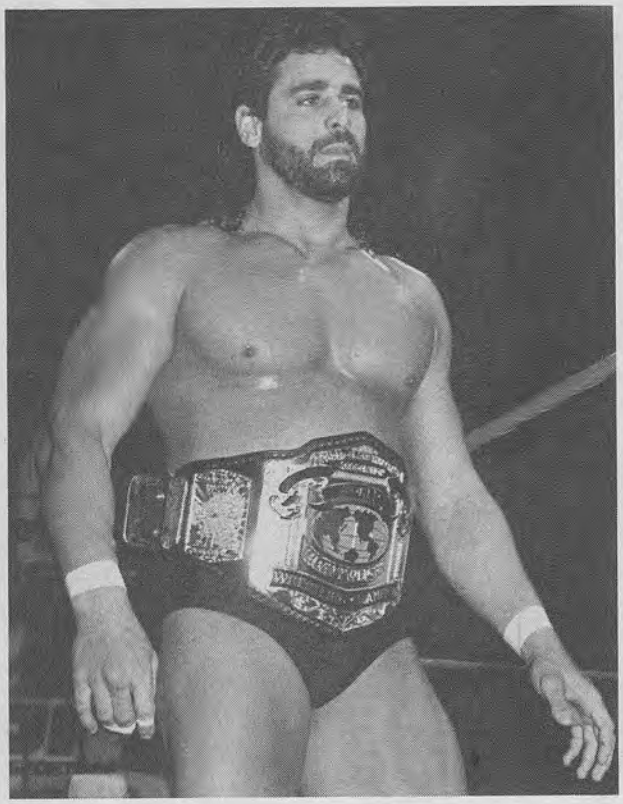




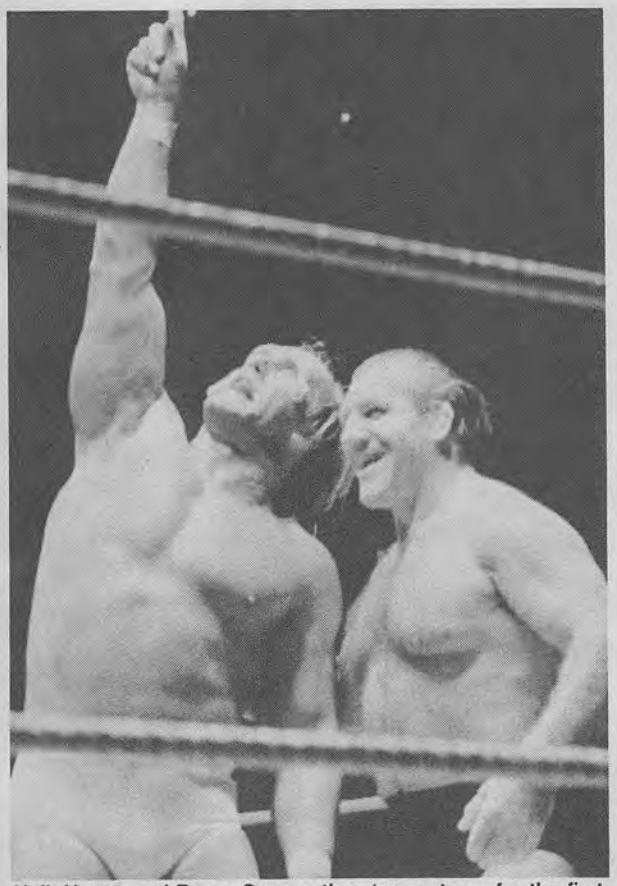
Sherri Martel dives at Fabulous Moolah on her way to winning the WWF women's title (above). Lex Luger beats Nikita Koloff with a chair and wins the U.S. belt (top right). Steve Williams slugs Big Bubba Rogers (right); "Dr. Death" pinned Bubba for the UWF title.

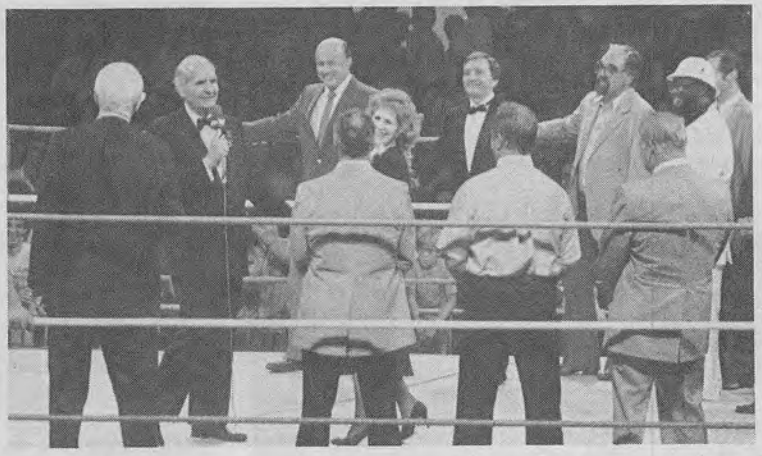
AUGUST

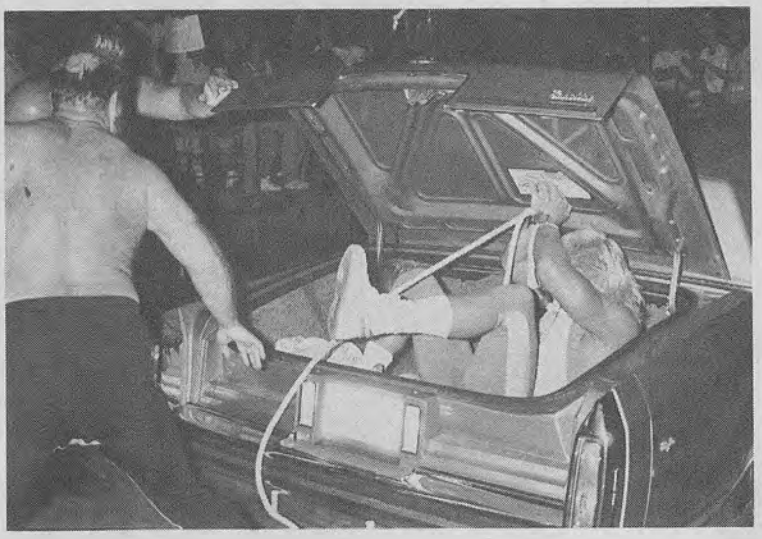




Another chapter in the Gagne-Hennig war: Greg belts Curt in the midsection (above); after one controversial match, the AWA title was held up, but later returned to Hennig. Al Perez (right) was awarded the World Class belt when Kevin Von Erich was forced to forfeit a title match.

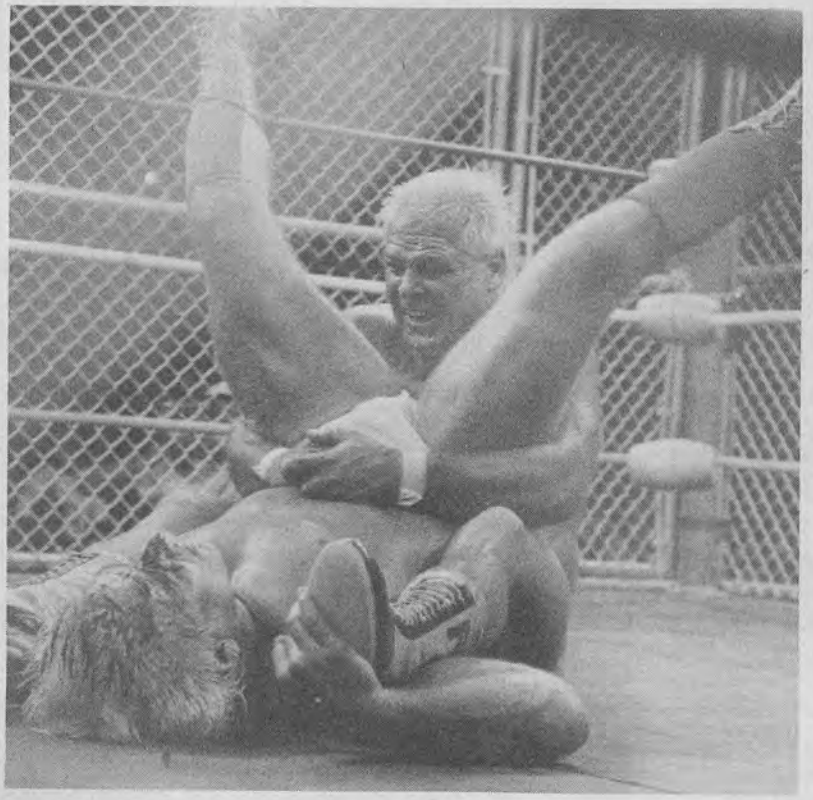


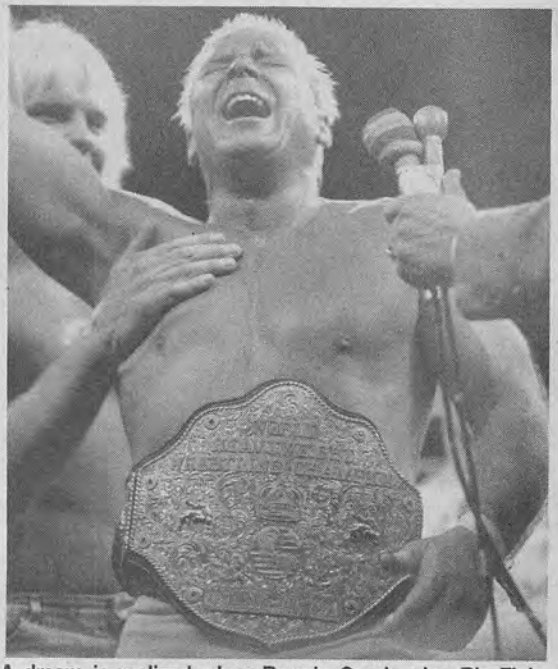




Hulk Hogan and Bruno Sammartino, tag partners for the first time, celebrate a win over King Kong Bundy and One Man Gang (above). Paul Boesch retires from promoting (top right). Blackjack Mulligan and Bugsy McGraw kidnap Johnny Ace (right).

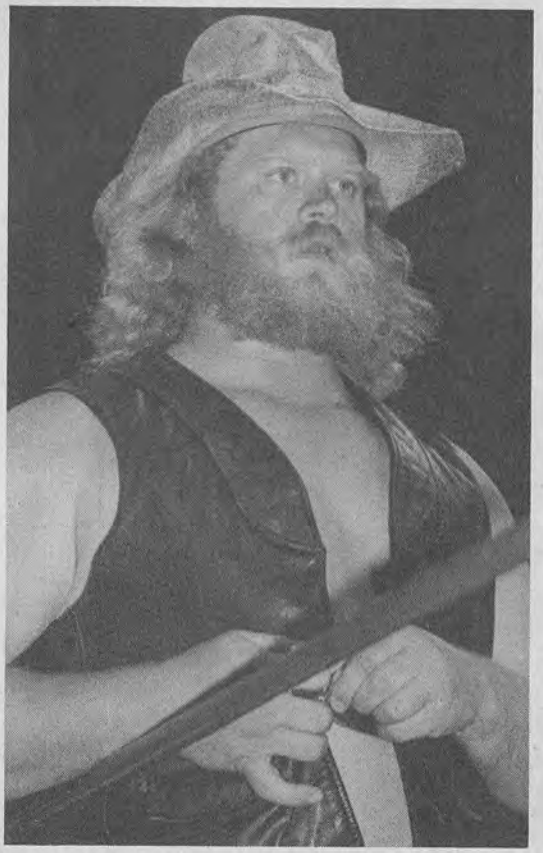
SEPTEMBER

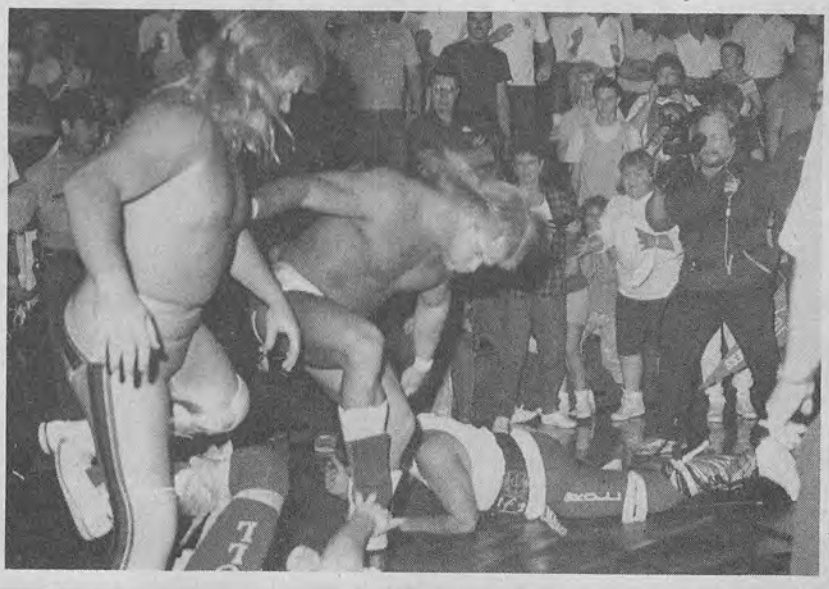




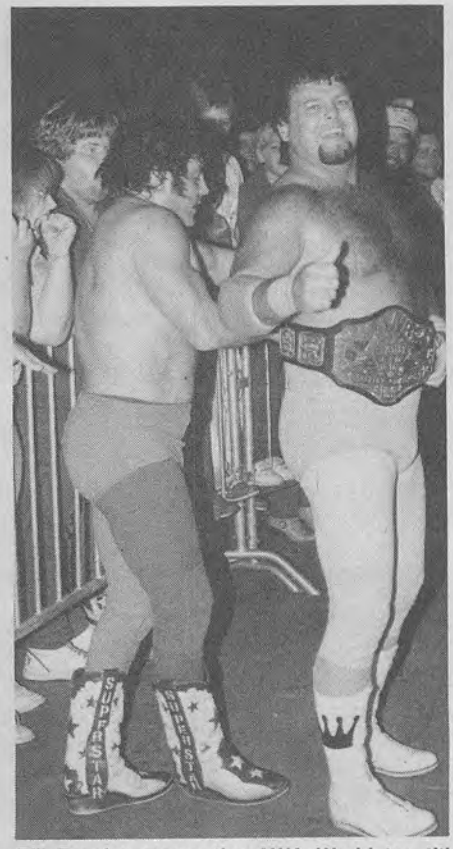
A dream is realized when Ronnie Garvin pins Ric Flair (left) and claims the NWA World title belt (above). Garvin's victory was a clear demonstration of the power of persistence, but an unwillingness to regularly defend the title hurt his reputation.

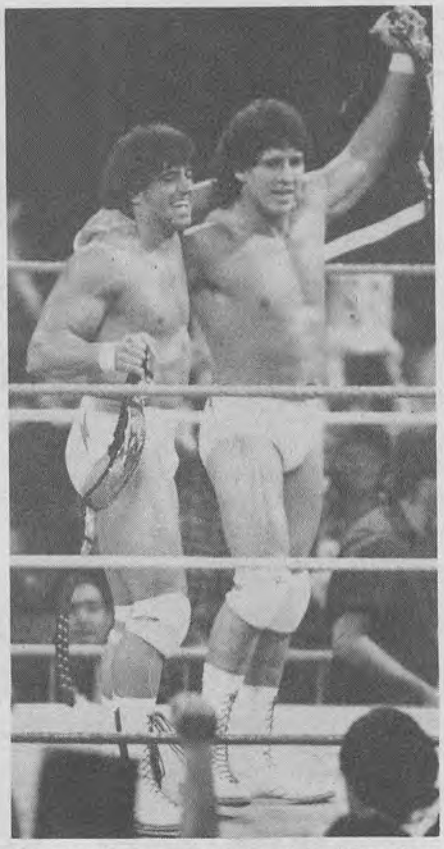
Long Rider Scott Irwin (below) died of a brain tumor at age 35. Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage unite for good, thanks to Elizabeth (right). The Midnight Express attack The Rock 'n' Roll Express (bottom right), causing them to lose the NWA tag title to Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard.



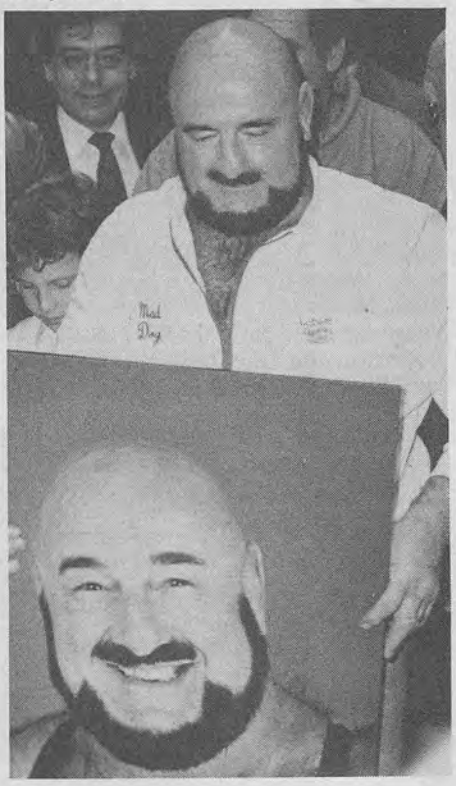


OCTOBER

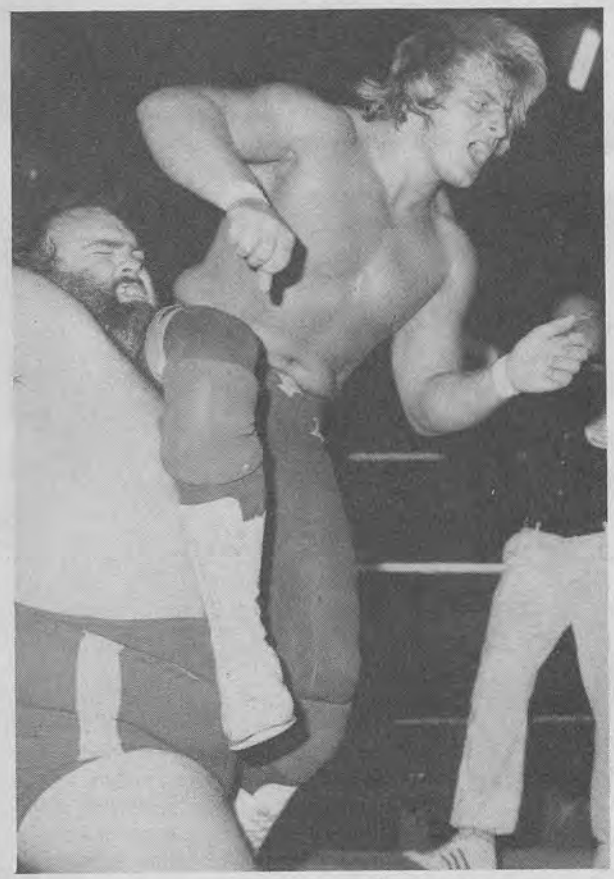


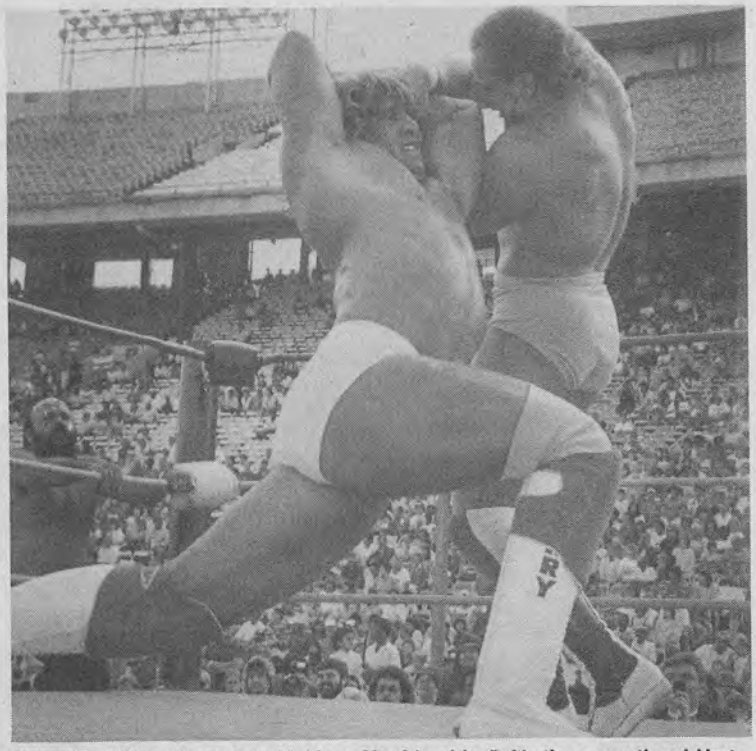


Former AWA champion Mad Dog Vachon (being honored by his friends in 1986) had his right leg partially amputated after being hit by a car.



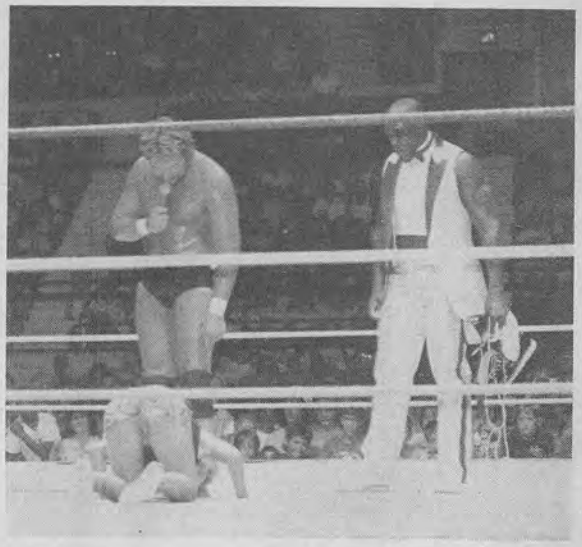
Bill Dundee straps the AWA World tag title belt around Jerry Lawler's waist after they defeated Soldat Ustinov and Doug Somers (above left). Rick Martel and Tito Santana rejoice over winning the WWF tag belts from The Hart Foundation (above right).



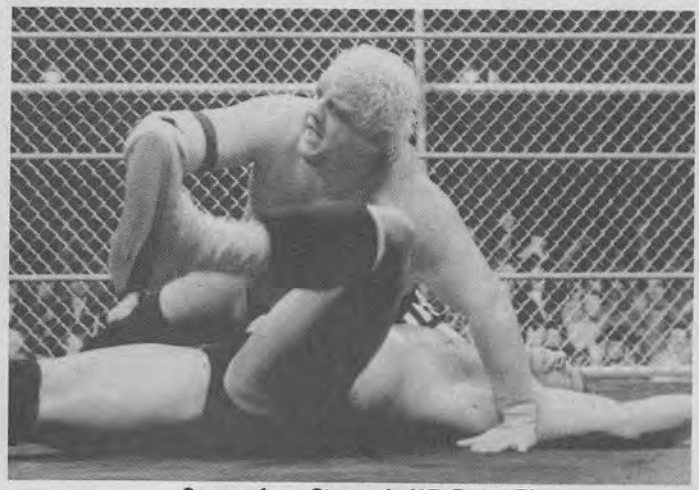


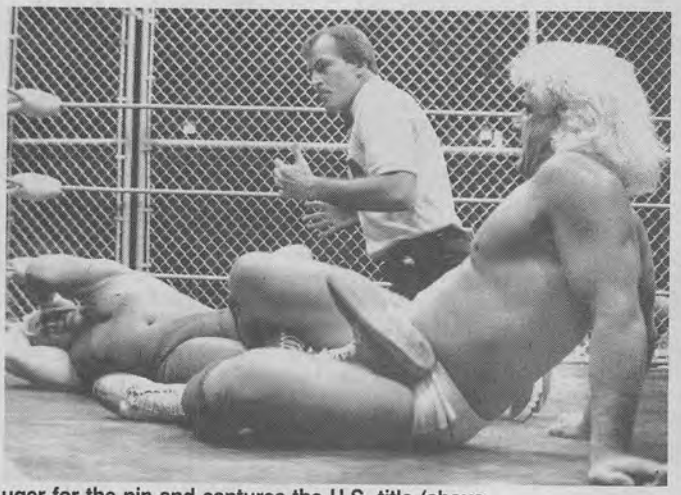
Owen Hart lifts a knee into Makhan Singh's chin (left); the sensational Hart, 1987 Rookie of the Year, is helping establish Stampede as a major area. Kerry Von Erich spars with Frank Lancaster at The Cotton Bowl (above); this was a prelude to Kerry's return to full-time wrestling.

NOVEMBER



Veterans battle it out at the WWF old-timers' battle royal (above); six-time former NWA champion Lou Thesz won the event. "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase humiliates a woman by paying her to kiss his feet (right).



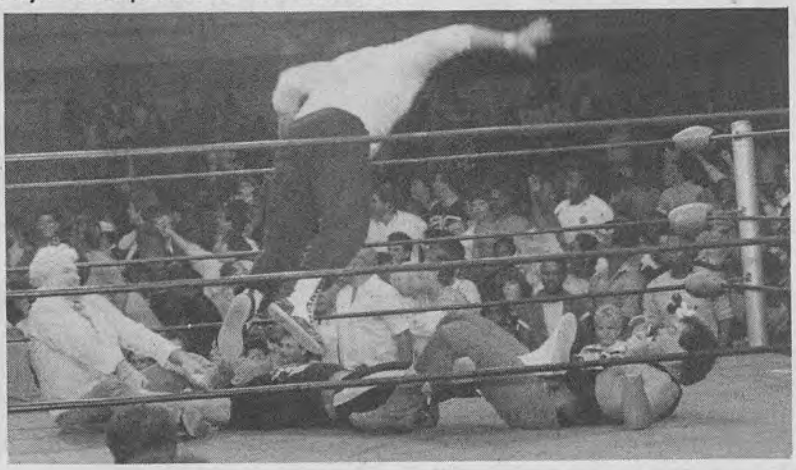


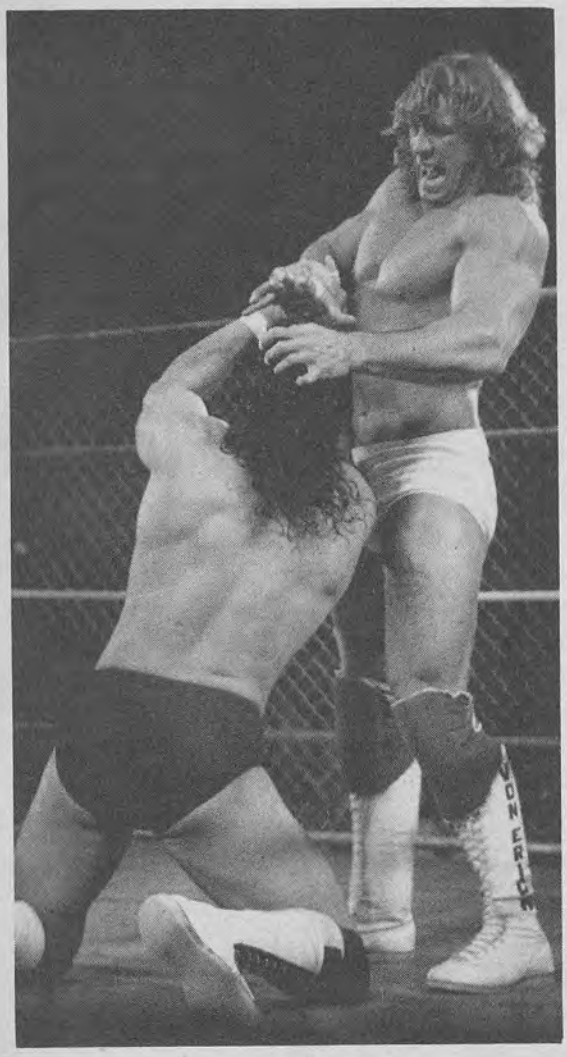
Scenes from Starrcade '87: Dusty Rhodes covers Lex Luger for the pin and captures the U.S. title (above left) and Ric Flair applies the figure-four leglock on Ronnie Garvin (above right); Flair became a five-time champion upon regaining the NWA World title.

Hulk Hogan punches Rick Rude during The Survivor Series (left); Hogan's team lost to Andre the Giant's. The irrepressible Capt. Lou Albano announces his candidacy for President of the United States (above).

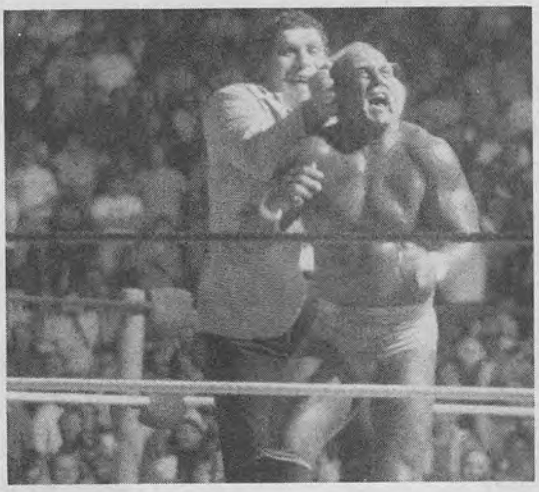
DECEMBER

Madusa Miceli wins the vacant AWA women's title with a victory over Candi Divine (left). As J.J. Dillon and Tully Blanchard hold him back, Lex Luger is attacked by Arn Anderson (below); Luger's break from the Horsemen will have major consequences for the entire NWA.





Kerry Von Erich puts the iron claw on World Class champion Al Perez (left); soon after his return to the ring, Kerry and his brother Kevin won the World Class tag belts. Greg Gagne puts the sleeper on Adrian Adonis on his way to winning the newly created AWA TV title (above). Andre the Giant attacks Hulk Hogan from behind after the champion had beaten King Kong Bundy (right).



A Sports Review Exclusive!

THE SECRET BE
TED DiBIASE'S MILLIONS!

WEARING DARK SUNglasses, a long overcoat, and a black fedora, with a day-old beard growing on his face, the tall man strolls into the downtown Dallas bank with a bulging briefcase tucked securely under his arm. He looks both ways before entering, then heads straight for the elevator and takes it to the top floor. Forty-five minutes later, he emerges, briefcase empty, jumps into a waiting limousine, goes home, and prepares for his evening's work.

It's 1977. Ten years hence, Ted DiBiase's vast riches would finally be revealed to the world when he arrived in the World Wrestling Federation. But for now, DiBiase is playing the part of the ordinary man, a fan favorite in an area where the average working stiff is revered by the fans, and nobody can know that he's actually one of the richest men in North America. Besides, DiBiase prefers to do things the hard way, like his father "Iron" Mike DiBiase did until his death in 1969. On this day in 1977, however, he had no idea that somebody was watching him.

Virgil entices a fan with Ted DiBiase's money. The origins of DiBiase's wealth have been the subject of much speculation.

"I confronted him days later in a parking lot after the matches," the source, who prefers to remain anonymous, revealed to *Sports Review Wrestling* shortly after Hulk Hogan turned down DiBiase's multimillion-dollar offer to buy the WWF World title. "He didn't deny it, but he said it was none of my business. He also said that if I let anybody else know 'our little secret,' as he called it, he had the money to make me disappear."

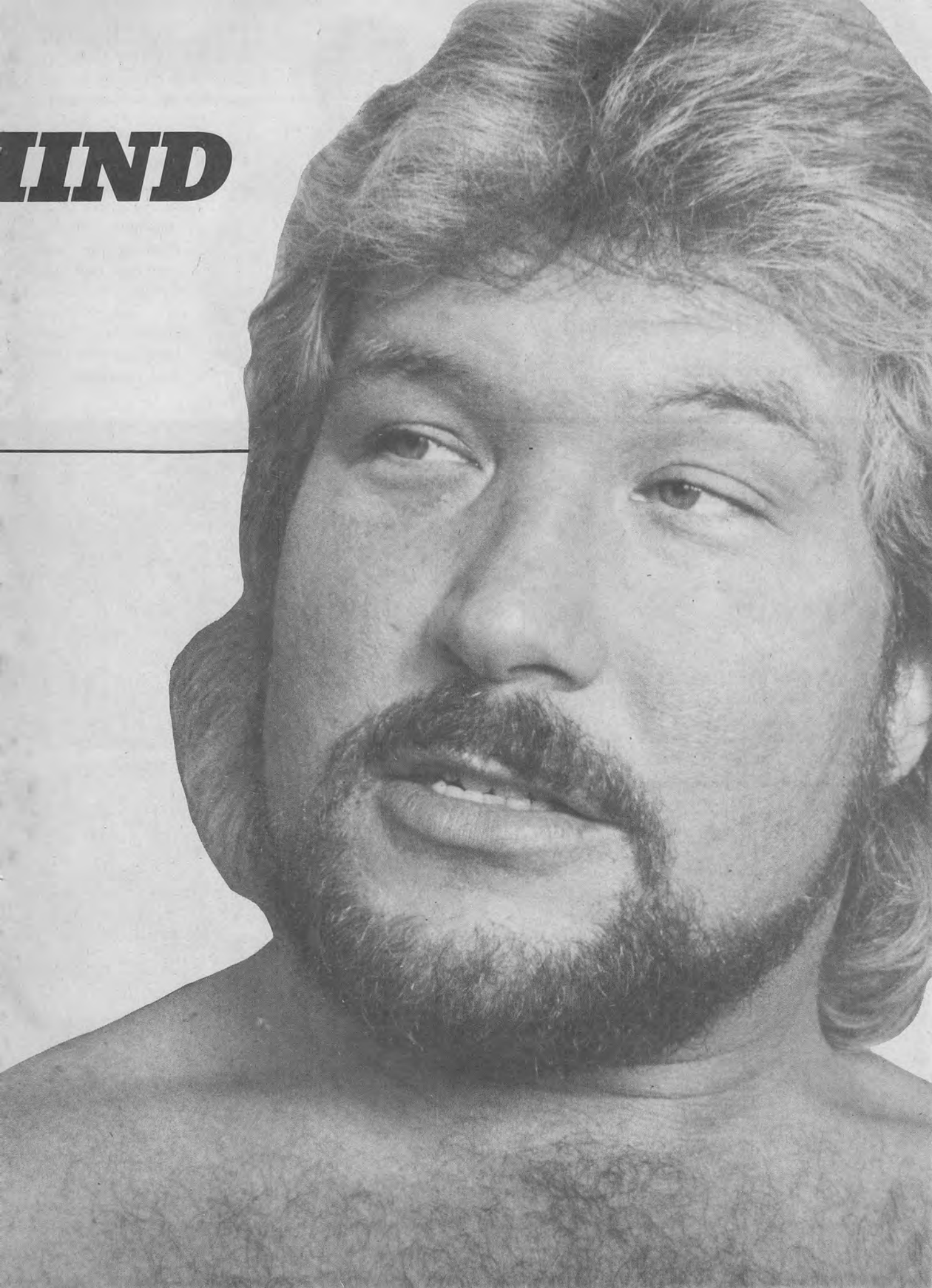
A team of *Sports Review Wrestling* reporters were immediately assigned to verify this story. After speaking with several relatives, close friends, and business acquaintances of DiBiase's, the following facts were uncovered:

● The DiBiase fortune actually goes back nearly 60 years, when DiBiase's grandfather capitalized on the great stock market crash of 1929. "That was a time when a person who hadn't invested in the stock market but still had a good amount of liquid cash could make a killing because stock prices plummeted," said Wall Street broker Walter Friedman. DiBiase's grandfather bought as much stock as he could and, when the market skyrocketed during World War II,

(Continued on page 64)

Believe it or not, Ted DiBiase has been one of the richest men in North America his entire life! In this *Sports Review Wrestling* exclusive, the story of the DiBiase family's great wealth is finally revealed!

HIND



Ole Anderson and Lex Luger thought they had the upper hand when they faced former stablemates Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the first time. But the Horsemen hadn't taught Ole and Luger *everything* they knew—and set the perfect trap!

THE BIG HOLIDAY crowd at The Omni in Atlanta was prepared for an unprecedented happening on New Year's Day. Ole Anderson and Lex Luger met NWA World champions Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson in a non-title match, marking the first time ever that two former members of The Four Horsemen had taken on two current members.

Tully & Arn's Secret Strategy

WHAT OLE & LUGER DIDN'T KNOW *DID* HURT THEM!

Photos by Len McAlister

The matchup was intriguing for other reasons. On Christmas night at The Omni, Ole ran out of the dressing room to save Luger from a three-on-one attack by J.J. Dillon, Blanchard, and Arn. From a strategic standpoint, this was a battle of four men who supposedly knew each other's every move. Having wrestled *with* each other so many times, there would be few surprises when they wrestled *against* each other.

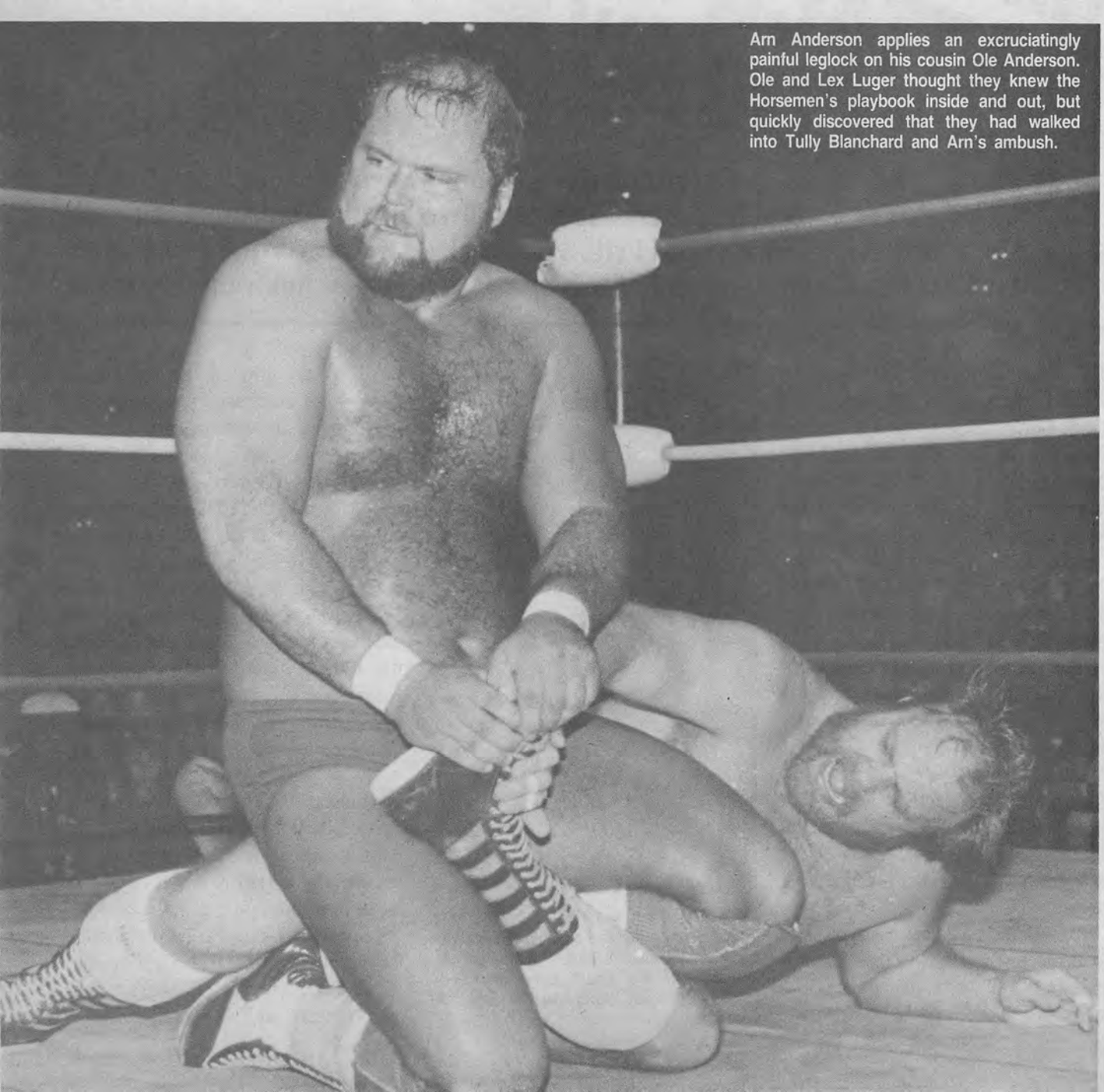
Ole and Luger figured to have a distinct advantage over their former mates. Luger only became a member of the Horsemen after Ole was ousted from the fearsome foursome last February. They had never teamed together. So, while Tully and Arn knew Ole and Luger's individual capabilities, they didn't know how they would perform as a team. On the other hand, Ole and Luger knew everything about Tully and Arn: their strategy, the way they think, the way they work together, and when Dillon could be expected to try and interfere.

Ole and Luger, two men with chips on their shoulders, seemed unbeatable. And indeed they were! The former Horsemen defeated the current Horsemen after 19 minutes when Arn tried to whip Luger into a chair Tully held. Luger reversed the whip, sent Arn careening into the chair, then covered him for the pin. But while Ole and Luger won the war, they lost every little battle before it.

They weren't prepared for Tully and Arn's secret strategy. They didn't realize that maybe Tully, Arn, and Dillon hadn't divulged *all* of the Horsemen's secrets to them. And what they *didn't* know *did* hurt them.

"They must have been total fools to think that Tully and Arn taught

(Continued on page 52)



Arn Anderson applies an excruciatingly painful leglock on his cousin Ole Anderson. Ole and Lex Luger thought they knew the Horsemen's playbook inside and out, but quickly discovered that they had walked into Tully Blanchard and Arn's ambush.

Kerry Von Erich Claims:

"GARY HART ENGINEERED THE FREEBIRDS' ATTACK ON MY FATHER!"

Gary Hart stood by and watched while Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and The Angel of Death attacked 60-year-old Fritz Von Erich. But Kerry Von Erich claims that Hart was the mastermind of this attack, not just an innocent bystander

IT WILL FOREVER be known as the Christmas Day Massacre. And Terry Gordy, Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and The Angel of Death will forever be known as the four cowards who sunk so low as to attack a 60-year-old man in one of the most sickeningly vile acts in wrestling history. Christmas Day 1987 in Dallas weakened the stomach of even the the most cynical wrestling fan.

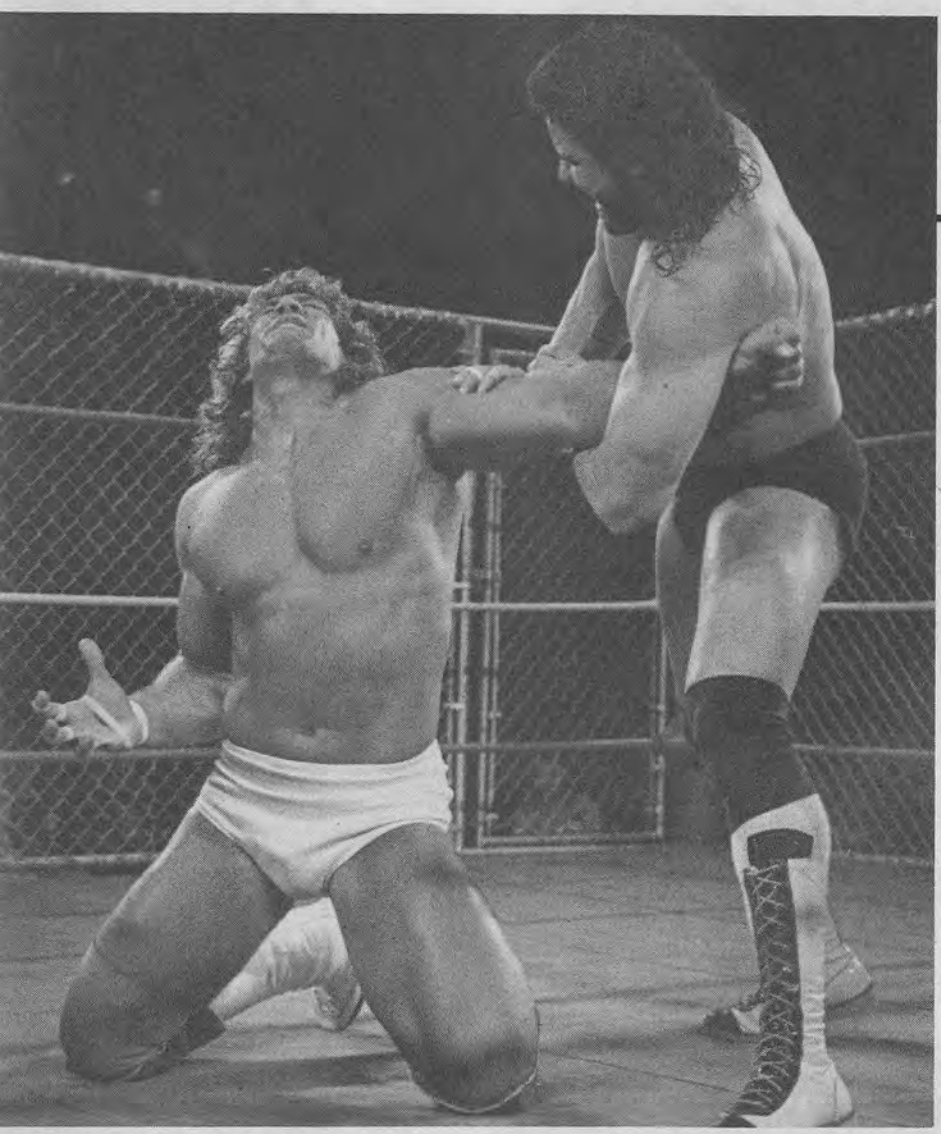
Fritz Von Erich, the beloved patriarch of wrestling's first family, was partially paralyzed in his legs as a result of this brutal attack prior to Al Perez's World Class title defense against Kerry Von Erich. But perhaps even more disgusting than the attack itself was the sight of Perez and manager Gary Hart, who simply stood by and watched it all happen.

Afterward, Perez and Hart officially condemned Gordy, Roberts, Parsons, and Angel. "It's cowardly to attack a 60-year-old man," charged Hart, "but we didn't get involved because it was none of our business. If you ask us, we would *never* do anything like that."

Kerry Von Erich escorts his father, Fritz, from the ring after the elder Von Erich was brutally attacked (top). Distracted by thoughts of his dad's condition, Kerry couldn't put away World Class champion Al Perez (above).

Kerry, however, claims to have proof to the contrary. For days after this latest tragedy befell the Von Erich family—Fritz was at first thought to have suffered a broken hip—Kerry did a little sleuthing on his own. And after talking with several wrestlers who were on the scene and others that were in the dressing room before the incident, Kerry concluded, "Gary Hart engineered The Freebirds' attack on my father!

"Even Hart realized how low he'd be sinking by attacking my father," claimed Kerry, "so he couldn't do it by himself and he couldn't have one of his men do it. Hart is willing to take a lot of heat, but not that much, and he certainly wasn't going to be responsible for an attack on my dad. He'd be run out of Texas in a second. Hart's a rich man, though, and he offered Roberts,



Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and The Angel of Death gang up on Fritz (top left), who is taken to the hospital (above). Kerry accuses Gary Hart of orchestrating the attack, although Hart had publicly condemned The Freebirds' actions. Perez armbars Kerry (left), who had trouble concentrating on the title match.

Gordy, Parsons, and Angel of Death a pretty hefty sum of money to do his dirty work for him. I found this out by talking to a lot of people, but now I've done enough talking. It's time for revenge."

The Von Erich family has already suffered considerably because of the attack. For the first time in his life, Fritz was carried out of the arena on a stretcher. He was brought to Baylor Medical Center and placed in intensive care. Two days later he was released from Baylor, but his condition worsened while at home. At press time, the extent of Fritz's paralysis was said to be serious.

Kerry returned to Reunion Arena after taking his father to the hospital, but was unable to put up much of a battle in his match against Perez. "My mind just wasn't into it," said Kerry. "I was thinking about my father."

The attack also affected Kevin Von Erich. On January 4 in Ft. Worth,

(Continued on page 54)

Photos by Buddy Myers

INTERVIEW

BOB ORTON JR.

THROUGHOUT HIS 15-year career, Bob Orton Jr. has been one of the most accomplished—and underrated—wrestlers in the sport. Though most fans will forever remember him as "Ace," Roddy Piper's ubiquitous bodyguard during the Scotsman's prime in the WWF, Orton's career boasts plenty of his own accomplishments.

Though his father, the great Bob Orton Sr., tried to dissuade him from a wrestling career, the younger Orton debuted in Florida in 1972, and shared the 1973 ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *Rookie of the Year award with Tony Garea. Since then, the 6'1", 245-pound grappler has captured singles and tag team titles in federations around the country.*

In addition to the Georgia tag titles he held with Mr. Wrestling II and Dick Slater early in his career, he also captured the Florida title from Jack Brisco, and scored a decision over then-NWA World champion Terry Funk that was later reversed. He teamed with his father to win the Florida tag belts in 1977 before his contract was purchased by Bobby Heenan, who was then managing in the AWA. There Orton feuded with Andre the Giant and Greg Gagne before moving on to the WWF to challenge then-champion Bob Backlund in 1982. His biggest title, no doubt, was the 1984 NWA World tag team title he held with Don Kernodle.

Orton's association with Piper began when he went to the Mid-Atlantic area in 1983 to aid Piper against The House of Humperdink. Thus began the partnership that, in 1984, was to give Hulk Hogan some of his greatest challenges—and would plague fan favorites in the WWF until 1986, when Piper turned fan favorite. When that happened, Orton forged a new alliance with Adrian Adonis and Magnificent Muraco. Once Adonis left for the AWA, Muraco turned fan favorite and began feuding with Orton. Deserted by his last ally, it soon became clear that Orton's days in the WWF were numbered.

So it came as little surprise in late 1987 when Orton decided to follow Adonis to the AWA and resume his role of bodyguard. Past accomplishments and future plans were the themes of the inteview conducted by Senior Editor Bill Apter recently in Minneapolis.

Although he's only been in the AWA for a few months, Bob Orton has already made his presence known. "Ace," as he was known during his days as Roddy Piper's bodyguard, always has something tricky up his sleeve.

Q: Bob, it's good of you to grant us this interview, as a lot of time has passed since we last spoke. Let's start with your reasons for coming to the AWA.

A: It was a combination of things. I'd had just about enough of the referees protecting pretty boys like [Magnificent] Muraco, [Hulk] Hogan, and the rest of those no-talent wrestlers. There's no doubt that I'm a tougher and better wrestler, but the close decisions were all going against me. I was holding my own, but I was doing it all myself. And in wrestling, when you're alone, you're *alone*. Most guys in my situation would have turned tail and ran. For the past few months, Adrian's been calling me and inviting me to join him. He'd call and explain how well things were going here and how he could really use a capable bodyguard, which, of course, I am. But I thought it was important to wrestle a couple of big mouths like Muraco before I left, just so nobody could say that they ran me out. When I was ready, I walked out like the man that I am. I've changed federations a lot in my career, and each time it's led to bigger and better things.

Q: Even if it means once again becoming a bodyguard? Don't you feel that it detracts from your singles career and from ever getting title shots to be always watching someone else's back instead of your own?

A: Ha, little man, I've never had a problem watching my own back. That's why I have the time and energy to do it for others I respect and admire. Like Adrian. I used to respect Piper, but he got soft in the head. I'm known as "Ace" because, like the playing card, I can turn the game around in a hurry once I decide to join the game.

Q: What was it about Piper's change last year that bothered you? And why couldn't you make the same switch?

A: Because Piper left a very important job undone—the destruction of that blowhard Hogan! Together, we could have done it and gone down in wrestling history, and done the sport a great service. But he let the cheers go to his head! Next thing you know he was helping Hogan against Andre the Giant. He betrayed my loyalty! I tried to do what I could with Adrian and Muraco, but Adrian left, and then Muraco took the easy way out. I could never do something like that for the simple reason that when I set out to do something, I *do* it, and to hell with what anyone else thinks. I *know* I'm an accomplished wrestler. My opponents know that, too. I am a man among men.

Q: Some people would look at Adonis and laugh about that last statement you just made. Do you have any trouble dealing with his eccentric personality?

A: People look at Adrian Adonis and jump to some wrong conclusions, but they should look at what the man gets done in the ring. I'm not one who's big on appearances. It's what someone can do in the ring that counts. And Adrian rates way up there in that respect. He never lets his extracurricular activities interfere with his dedication to wrestling. Never has, and probably never will. And that's what counts.

Q: What exactly will you try to accomplish here in the AWA?

A: I'm going to do what I do best. That is, show that I'm one tough cowboy who knows how to wrestle. For openers, Adrian and I are going to serve notice that things are going to change here. Yes sir, things are going to change.

Q: Does that mean that you'll take on other rulebreakers, such as World champion Curt Hennig or World

As long as Bob Orton is around, Adrian Adonis will never have to watch his back. Here, Greg Gagne has the advantage on Adonis, but Orton runs in to make the save. "Ace" openly admits that he holds the rules in low regard.

tag champs the "Original" Midnight Express?

A: I'm not going to lay all my cards out on the table for you, Apter. But we'll take it one step at a time. For openers, it's no secret that Adrian would love to take the TV title from that daddy's boy Greg Gagne. And, you know, the last time I was here I nearly destroyed that overblown runt. Hennig's belt is another possibility. I don't care who holds the title. I mean, even though Hennig is what you idiots call a "rulebreaker," he's still giving title shots to guys like Kevin Kelly, who aren't exactly Boy Scouts themselves. That's one of the things I've always liked about the AWA. He'd better watch his back, because the title could easily fall to me.

Q: So where does this leave you with respect to Adonis' career?

A: Well, I'm not going to take too active a role in guiding Adrian's career. That's Paul E. Dangerously's job. But with me behind him, he'll never have to worry about any sneak-attacks or anything like that.

Q: I think it's fair to say that very few of Adonis' opponents are the kind who pull sneak-attacks, although he and Dagerously have pulled a few themselves. I think you'll probably be the attacker rather than the defender.

A: One does what one has to do. So much of wrestling is mental as well as physical. For example, sometimes it's important to land the first blow, because that'll give you a good psychological advantage over your opponent from which he'll never recover. I must admit, I'm very impressed by Paul E. Dangerously in this respect. He may be young, but he's got a tricky mind that never stops churning. I'd have to rate him up there with Bobby Heenan and the *old* Roddy Piper in that respect. He can think rings around the opposition, and he's such a master of psychological tactics that a lot of our opponents are beaten before they even get in the ring. It's a pleasure just to listen to him at a strategy session, because he just comes up with so many different ways to skin a cat, so to speak . . .

Orton holds Mitch Snow in position for a piledriver while Adonis grabs Snow's feet and jumps off the ropes to increase the move's impact. With Orton in his corner, Adonis has become more dangerous than ever.

Q: The vast majority of which run against the rules, no doubt.

While in the WWF, Orton took World champion Hulk Hogan to the limit on several occasions.

A: No doubt about it at all. Such brilliance can't be dimmed by something as stupid as respect for rules that are simply impossible to enforce. The only rules in wrestling are those that we wrestlers make ourselves—and back up by our own deeds. Everything else is just talk. When I catch an opponent in my superplex, he remembers it for weeks, months, and sometimes *years* before he starts running his mouth again. Come on, Apter, neither of us are rookies. If everyone played by the rules, your life would be dullsville. I would be working on a ranch somewhere. I just hope you still don't believe in Santa Claus, too, 'cause I'm tired of having to explain these basic ideas to you.

Q: Then I guess we'll end the interview. Thanks for your time, Bob.

A: I consider it a *waste* of time, but I always give things my best shot. Soon, everybody in the AWA is going to see just what that means. □

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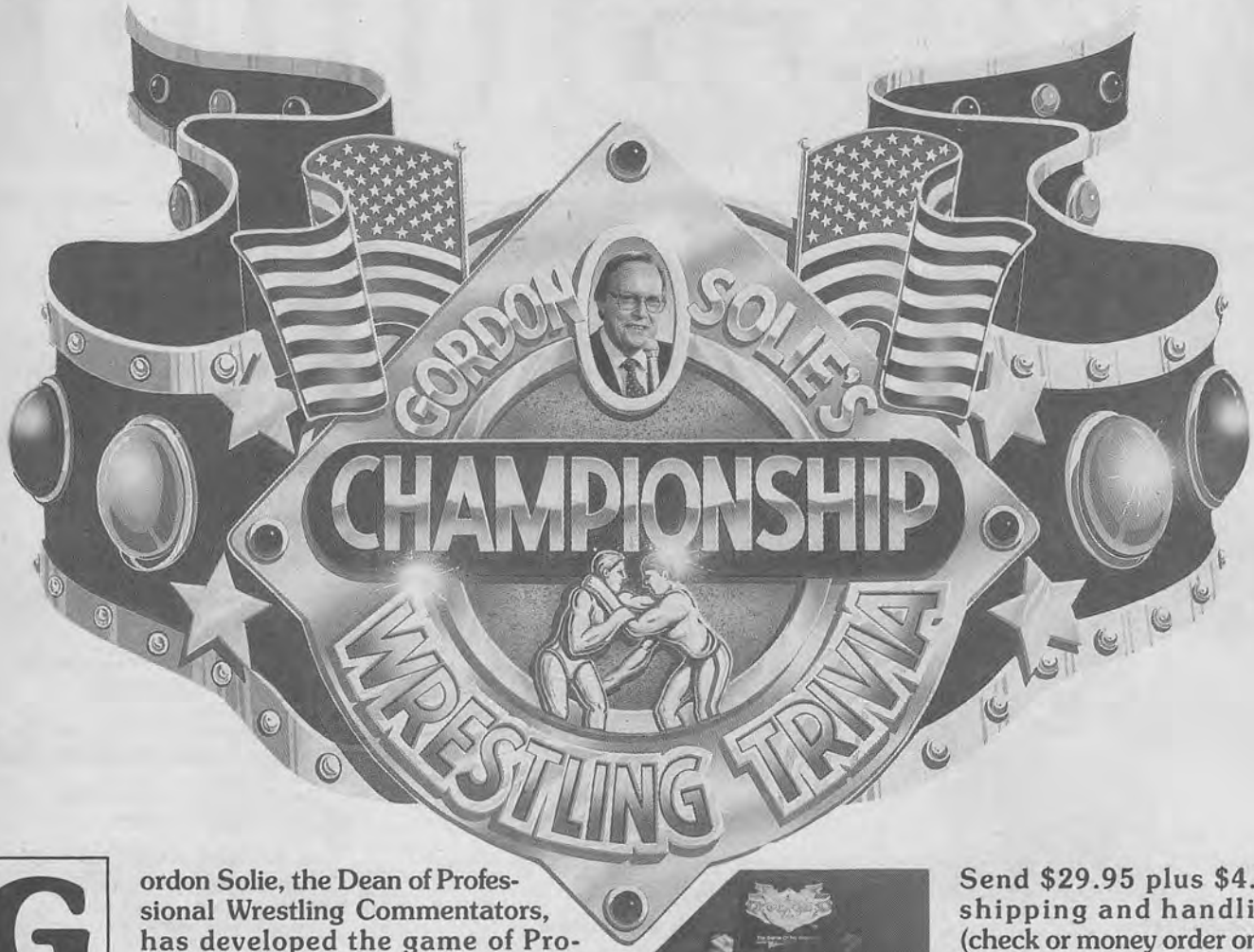

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

Curt Hennig

TOP10

1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
2. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   WWF World champion
3. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   NWA TV champion
4. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
5. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   U.S. heavyweight champion
6. **STEVE WILLIAMS**
   265, Norman, OK
   UWF heavyweight champion
7. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   236, Sweetwater, TX
   Western States champion
8. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   AWA World champion
9. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   No. 1 contender: U.S. title
10. **AL PEREZ**
    238, Tampa, FL
    World Class champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
2. **RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
   Combined weight: 489 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
3. **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
   Combined weight: 484 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
4. **BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
5. **BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
6. **THE ISLANDERS**
   Combined weight: 472 pounds
   No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
7. **THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
   Combined weight: 461 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
8. **DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
   Combined weight: 461 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
9. **THE SHEEPHERDERS**
   Combined weight: 542 pounds
   No. 3 contenders to NWA World title
10. **THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
    Combined weight: 461 pounds
    CWA tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
2—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
3—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
4—**STING**
270, Venice Beach, CA
5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
7—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
8—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
9—**BOBBY EATON**
233, Huntsville, AL
10—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN

1—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
2—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
3—**KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
4—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
312, New York, NY
5—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
6—**BOB ORTON**
232, St. Louis, MO
7—**TOM ZENK**
237, Robbinsdale, MN
8—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT
9 **NICK KINISKI**
220, Edmonton, AL
10—**MITCH SNOW**
220, Mooresville, NC

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
2—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
3—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
5—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
6—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
7—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
8—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
9—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
10—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL

1—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
2—**MATT BORNE**
235, Portland, OR
3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
4—**CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
5—**ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
6—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
7—**SHAUN SIMPSON**
200, Johannesburg, South Africa
8—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
9—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
10—**STEVE SIMPSON**
215, Johannesburg, South Africa

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended January 14, 1988

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
2. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last issue: unrated
3. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
5. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
6. **STING**
   270, Venice Beach, CA
   Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
7. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
8. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   236, Sweetwater, TX
   Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
9. **JAKE ROBERTS**
   246, Stone Mountain, GA
   Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
10. **JERRY LAWLER**
    234, Memphis, TN
    Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
   497, Grenoble, France
   Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
2. **TED DiBIASE**
   247, Omaha, NB
   Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
3. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
4. **THE HONKY TONK MAN**
   255, Memphis, TN
   Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
5. **TULLY BLANCHARD**
   235, San Antonio, TX
   Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
6. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
7. **ARN ANDERSON**
   249, Minneapolis, MN
   Last issue: unrated
8. **TERRY GORDY**
   289, Chattanooga, TN
   Last issue: unrated
9. **AL PEREZ**
   238, Tampa, FL
   Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
10. **RICK RUDE**
    246, Robbinsdale, MN
    Last issue: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—HULK HOGAN ..... 96 points
2—RIC FLAIR ..... 92 points
3—NIKITA KOLOFF ..... 60 points
4—BARRY WINDHAM ..... 56 points
5—LEX LUGER ..... 54 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 100 points
2—THE HART FOUNDATION ..... 78 points
3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE ..... 58 points
4—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS ..... 51 points
5—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... 48 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART
223, Calgary, Alberta

1—**GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
2—**MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
3—**JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270 parts unknown
4—**COL. KIRCHNER**
260, Ft. Bragg, NC
5—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
6—**CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
7—**HIRO HASE**
226, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
8—**PHIL LAFLEUR**
245, Montreal, Quebec
9—**BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
10—**KERRY BROWN**
225, Kansas City, MO

CWA

CWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
2—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
3—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
4—**JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
5—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
6—**TERRY TAYLOR**
236, Vero Beach, FL
7—**HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City, Mexico
8—**TEIJHO KHAN**
265, Mongolia
9—**DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN
10—**BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
LORD HUMONGOUS
245, parts unknown

1—**DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
2—**DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
3—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
4—**DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
5—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
6—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
7—**TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
8—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
9—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
10—**MONGOLIAN STOMPER**
239, Mongolia

TRANS WORLD

Trans World Champion:
JULES STRONGBOW
240, Pawhuska, OK

1—**THE IRON SHEIK**
262, Teheran, Iran
2—**ROCKY JOHNSON**
246, Toronto, Ontario
3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
4—**DAVID SHULTZ**
265, Memphis, TN
5—**SAMOAN AFA**
295, Samoa
6—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
7—**YUKON JACK**
320, Anchorage, AK
8—**SALVATORE BELLOMO**
240, Rome, Italy
9—**TONGA KID II**
230, Tonga
10—**EXECUTIONER I**
241, parts unknown

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Goodbye, UWF! **Jim Crockett Promotions** made a blockbuster announcement in late December with the news that the UWF had merged with the NWA. The UWF tag team title was eliminated, UWF wrestlers would wrestle in the NWA, the Western States title would become a full-fledged NWA championship, and a unification bout between the UWF heavyweight champion and the NWA World champion would be held in February, with the winner of that bout to be named NWA World champion.

Very simply, here's what this means: **The Sheepherders**, who held the UWF tag belts at the time of the announcement, are now contenders for the NWA World and U.S. tag titles. **Barry Windham**, the Western States champ, will defend his belt in the NWA. And if **Steve Williams** can retain his UWF title, he'll have a big chance to go after the NWA World championship. If somebody else wins the belt from Williams, they'll get the chance. The UWF TV title was unified with the NWA TV title at Starrcade '87 when **Nikita Koloff** defeated **Terry Taylor**.

Steve Williams

Here's how this affects our ratings: First, the UWF ratings have been eliminated. Wrestlers from the UWF now wrestling in the NWA will be included in the NWA ratings. The number-one contender's spot in the NWA is still reserved for the U.S. champion, currently **Dusty Rhodes**. The number-two spot will be filled by the UWF heavyweight champion until the unification match is held. The unified NWA/UWF TV champ is now called the NWA TV champ. The Western States champ will, naturally, be rated highly in the NWA, but no automatic rating will be provided that title.

As for the overall implications of the merger, remember that not too long ago there was talk of granting the UWF heavyweight championship world title status. In fact, many fans thought we should take world title status away from the AWA and give it to the UWF. Now the UWF is gone, the AWA is still in existence, and we're glad we didn't act too hastily!

Goodbye World Championship! . . . although not as literally as the UWF. World Championship Wrestling still exists; you can see it every Saturday and Sunday on SuperStation WTBS. But we've decided to follow your advice and remove the World Championship category from our ratings pages. It's simply a waste of space.

Back in the September 1987 issue of our sister publication *The Wrestler*, we asked readers whether we should eliminate the WCW category, citing the increasing influence of the World Championship area in the NWA and noting that the NWA ratings are almost exclusively dominated by WCW wrestlers. A majority of those responding said that the NWA and World Championship ratings should be combined into one category.

Before making any changes, we decided to take a closer look at the situation. With the Florida area only a fond memory, it has become even more apparent that World Championship and the NWA are virtually one and the same. Last month, for example, only three men—**Sting**, **Barry Windham**, and **Terry Taylor**—from an area besides World Championship were listed in the NWA ratings. All three men are from the UWF, which, of course, has now been absorbed into the NWA.

Hello CWA! The UWF ratings are gone. The World Championship ratings are gone. You also might have noticed a seemingly new area, the CWA. That stands for the Championship Wrestling Association, formerly known as Mid-Southern. In early December, Mid-Southern officials decided to change the federation's name to CWA and drop the AWA prefix from their titles.

The CWA board of directors then held a tournament to unify the AWA Southern, AWA International, and Mid-America belts into the CWA championship. **Jerry Lawler**, **Jeff Jarrett**, and **Manny Fernandez** (the holders of those three titles) competed in a round-robin tournament on December 7 in Memphis, won by Lawler. Now there's a CWA heavyweight champion (Lawler) and a CWA tag team championship—formerly known as the AWA Southern tag championship—now held by **The Midnight Rockers**. The CWA still recognizes the AWA World heavyweight and tag team champions, and CWA wrestlers will sometimes appear in the AWA ratings.

Jerry Lawler

And hello cumulative ratings! To fill the space vacated by the UWF and WCW ratings, we've added cumulative ratings. You might have seen this a few months back in our year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, where we used a point system to add up the Top 10 singles and tag team ratings for the past year. In this case, we'll add up the Top 10 singles and tag team ratings for the past 10 issues and list the top five in each category. For a more detailed explanation of this new monthly category, check out the ratings pages.

Finally, the revolving ratings category. This month, it's Trans World Wrestling, an independent federation that runs shows in New England and Pennsylvania. You're sure to recognize many of the names in this growing federation: heavyweight champion **Jules Strongbow** is the son of **Chief Jay Strongbow** and a former WWF World tag team champion. **The Iron Sheik** is making good use of his frequent-flyer program, wrestling for several federations around the country, including the World Class. **Rocky Johnson** and **Salvatore Bellomo** are former WWF favorites. **Sgt. Slaughter**, defender of the United States of America, continues his feud with The Iron Sheik. The talent roster also includes "Dr. D" **David Shultz** and former World Class, UWF, and WWF star **The Missing Link**.

Did we give you enough to write about? We expect the mail to come flooding in because of the drastic changes on our ratings pages. Were we right to eliminate the World Championship ratings? Are cumulative ratings a good idea? What could we have done instead? We want to know. Send all mail to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

BACK ISSUES OF PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

JULY 1983

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine,** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan,** Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler,** Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP. Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper,** Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash,** Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter,** Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors,** Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash,** Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita,** DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

OCTOBER 1987

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

dove into the crowd at one point. The following day in Edmonton, Bad News and Makhan gained revenge when Gama Singh interfered after 20 minutes to hit Jason with a broom handle. Makhan then pinned the dazed, prone Jason to even the score.

—Geoffrey York

GREENSBORO, NC: NWA TV champion Nikita Koloff has denied a report published in the May 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* that said he was approached by manager James J. Dillon to become a member of The Four Horsemen.

"Dillon not talk to me," said Nikita. "Dillon *never* talk to me. He know that I do not talk to Four Horsemen. I have good friend Magnum T.A. to think about and tag team partner Dusty Rhodes. I have dedicated my life to Magnum T.A. and will never forget him."

NIKITA KOLOFF

The Four Horsemen's numbers dwindled to three in early December with the defection of former U.S. champion Lex Luger, leaving only Arn Anderson, Tully Blanchard, and NWA World champion Ric Flair. At first, Dillon said he wasn't in a hurry to fill the vacancy, but, according to reliable sources, he began a secret talent search for a new Horseman in early January. Nikita was reportedly one of the first men he approached.

Although Nikita and Dusty speak well of each other publicly, there are rumors that Nikita is disenchanted with "The American Dream." Koloff became angry last summer when he lost the U.S. title to Luger and was edged out of the title picture when Rhodes announced his plans to go after the belt. Then Rhodes won the title from Luger at Starrcade '87, forcing Nikita out of the picture entirely. The only way back in would be if Dusty lost the title or Nikita became a rulebreaker once again.

Meanwhile, Rhodes announced in mid-January that he and Nikita would team with noted woman wrestler Misty Blue Simmes in six-man tag matches against Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express. "You might ask why Misty Blue would get involved in a match involving three men," said Rhodes, "but the way 'The Dream' sees it, Jimmy Cornette is no man at all."

According to our sources, Nikita, Rhodes, and Misty were going to challenge J.J. Dillon, Tully Blanchard, and Arn Anderson, but Koloff balked at going up against the Horsemen.

—Ken Miranda

GREENWICH, CT: Big Bubba Rogers, a former UWF heavyweight champion and the bodyguard of Jim Cornette in the NWA, reportedly refused to sign with the World Wrestling Federation until he was guaranteed a summer title match against World champion Hulk Hogan.

Sources familiar with the terms of Rogers' contract negotiations told *Sports Review Wrestling* that WWF officials and promoters originally wanted several months to "evaluate Rogers' talent." Bubba, according to our source, told the WWF that as a former UWF champion he had already earned a title shot.

BIG BUBBA ROGERS

The WWF does have an out in this contract clause, however. Rogers will not receive the title bout if he is defeated by "a sub-par opponent." The contract also calls for a match against Hogan, but not any other champion. So, if Hogan loses his title before the summer, the WWF won't be required to give Rogers a match against the new champion.

Rogers came to the NWA in 1987 as Cornette's bodyguard, but didn't receive attention as a wrestler until he put up a strong fight against Ole Anderson in a steel cage match at the Crockett Cup in early April. Rogers was then signed by manager Gen. Skandor Akbar and brought to the UWF as a wrestler. He won the title from One Man Gang later that month, lost it to Steve Williams in July, and returned to the NWA as Cornette's bodyguard shortly afterward.

—Alison Corey □

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WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khrushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan-Orndorff, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

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SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMC-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, Magnum T.A., War Games.

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REPORTER

(Continued from page 10)

Hogan turned him down, although I wasn't surprised."

Paula Mosco, Boston: "I'm not sure. It's something I honestly couldn't answer because I can't even comprehend the idea of somebody offering me a million dollars for *anything*. I guess, in Hogan's case, he has millions and millions of dollars anyway, so DiBiase's money wouldn't make any difference. But how about the average person who has to work for a living? When somebody offers me a million bucks for something, I'll be able to give you an answer. Until then, who knows?"

John Buntino, Santa Anna, CA: "I'd grab the money in a minute, and I think that anybody who's being honest with themselves would say the same thing. Let's face it, a million dollars is a lot of money and you can do a lot with it. Some people work their entire lives and don't make a million bucks, and here's a chance to make it all in one shot. Put it this way: Everybody *does* have their price, even Hogan. If DiBiase had upped the ante, I'm sure Hogan would've grabbed the cash. The way I see it, always take advantage of your opportunities."

Steve Horne, Pensacola, FL: "Anybody with an ounce of integrity would turn down the cash in a minute. It's more important to earn something than to buy it, and the WWF World title was something Hogan earned and defended with his own blood, sweat, and tears. I have a lot of respect for him and I'd like to think I'd react the same way. There are too many people in this world just like DiBiase who think they can buy whatever they want. Well, that's just not true. Ability and hard work counts for something."

A.J. Barbanooch, Amarillo, TX: "It depends on what federation I'm champion of. If I was AWA World champion, I'd know it wasn't worth a million bucks, so I'd take the money. If I

was World Class champion, I'd laugh in the guy's face, because that belt ain't worth 100 bucks. If it was the NWA World championship, though, I'd tell him to take a walk, because that's really worth something. As for the WWF World title, I'm just not sure. Some great wrestlers have worn that belt, so I guess I'd have to say no."

Sarah Gregory, Hamilton, Ontario: "I'd like to think that I'd do exactly what 'The Hulkster' did, except I'd be a bit more blunt about it and tell DiBiase exactly where he can stick his money. There are some things in life that money just can't buy, and the World title is one of those things. It's a mat-

DiBiase is convinced that his millions can buy him anything he wants—including a world championship.

ter of integrity, honesty, and hard work. How can anybody put a price on that? I guess a lot of people would take the money, though, simply because they're not as strong-willed as Hogan. That's too bad."

Bobby Cassidy, Portland, OR: "One million dollars? I'd take it in a second, and so would most people. Listen, I work more than 50 hours a week just to clear $400 bucks, and I've got an entire family to feed. So you expect me to turn down a million for a world title? Listen, the championship is only worth whatever you make of it, and if you can make some money by selling it, why not? Besides, the other guy would be the fool, because even though I sold the title, most people would know that I didn't lose it and he didn't win it." □

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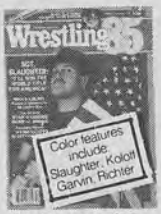

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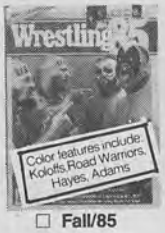

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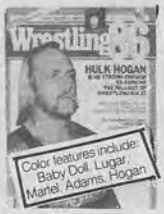

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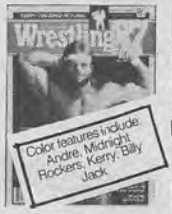

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TULLY & ARN

(Continued from page 37)

them everything they knew," said Dillon, in surprisingly good spirits for a manager who just watched his men lose to their newest and fiercest enemies. "There are several secret plans and strategies, not in any playbook or manual, that only Tully, Arn, and myself know. There's no way Luger and Ole could've been adequately prepared."

They weren't. Ole and Luger, a makeshift tag team in every way, took a brutal beating for most of the bout. Even the powerful Luger seemed overwhelmed by the Horsemen's guile and ruthlessness. Only the Horsemen's preoccupation with punishing Luger and Ole ("They had to learn a lesson," Tully said afterward) kept them from winning the match in the first 10 minutes.

"There's a Horseman's way of doing everything and, of course, there's a Horseman's way of wrestling in tag team matches," revealed Arn. "The timing is down to a science. There are certain guidelines that state how long each man should stay in the ring, when the other should help out, which part of the ring to take the match to at various times, and when to go for the win.

"There's also a time to use certain moves, which changes as the match goes on," Arn continued. "Luger and Ole are very familiar with these guidelines, but they were never shown the auxiliary guidelines—and for good reason. Throughout the match we kept on mixing things up. Watch a replay of the match closely and you'll see that they were totally confused."

Ole and Luger even fell for one of the most well-known Horsemen tricks in the book. Tully managed to take the action to the arena floor for a battle with Ole. In most instances, this would leave the two remaining men to go one-on-one. J.J. Dillon, however, is an integral part of the Horsemen's strategies and ran in to help Arn. Although this strategy initially backfired—Tully returned to the ring with a chair, leading to Luger's pin of Arn—it paid off in the long run.

After the pin, Dillon, Blanchard, and Arn triple-teamed Luger. A stunned Ole Anderson couldn't get back into the ring to save his partner, leaving Luger defenseless. Sting ran out of the dressing room to

The punishment continues as Arn drags Ole to the ring apron. Their tag belts not on the line, Arn and Tully were free to do as they pleased.

save Luger, but the damage had been done.

Ole returned to the dressing room dazed and hurt. Luger suffered severe bruises and a minor concussion. Tully and Arn were beaten, but they returned to the dressing room healthy, their belts intact. Meanwhile, Luger and Ole vowed revenge in the weeks ahead, unaware of the secrets remaining in the Horsemen's playbook of terror.

Blanchard hammers a defenseless Luger with a steel chair. Tully and Arn concentrated on punishing the young star for turning his back on The Four Horsemen.

"It's only just begun," warned Blanchard. "Luger's walking into our trap, and he's so excited about getting revenge he doesn't realize what he's doing. He'll walk right into an ambush without realizing it. Ole's no different, except he's old and washed up. Luger's got a future, although he might not once we get through with him."

Luger and Ole would do well to avoid future non-title matches against Tully and Arn. When the title isn't on the line, Tully and Arn are free to do as they please, without regard for the belts. When defending their belts, Tully and Arn must be more defensive or risk losing the title.

In either case, however, Ole and Luger will be forced to play a guessing game. Knowing so much about Tully and Arn actually hurts them, because they *think* they know what's coming at them.

But they're wrong. □

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KERRY VON ERICH

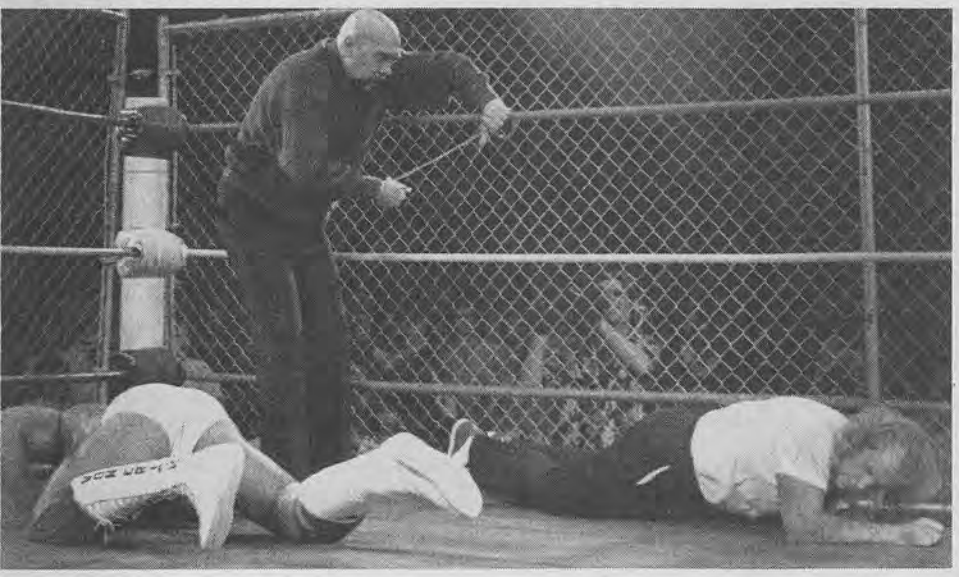
(Continued from page 39)

Kevin attacked Gordy, Roberts, and Parsons—by himself!—and got the worst of it. Matt Borne substituted for Kevin in a six-man tag team title defense with Chris Adams and Steve Simpson against Gordy, Roberts, and Parsons, but Kevin ran out of the dressing room to interfere. Adams, Simpson, and Borne were disqualified and, by World Class rules, lost the belts.

Ironically, if Kerry's charges are correct, Kevin attacked the wrong person. The object of his ire should have been Hart, who claims that he and Perez stood by and watched because "it was none of our business." But doesn't a human being have a responsibility to other human beings? Hart and Perez hate the Von Erichs, but this attack was nothing short of obscene. And one has to laugh at Hart's claim that "we would never do anything like that." Hart has been guilty of some of the most heinous offenses in World Class history.

"It wouldn't surprise me at all to find out that Hart was behind it," said Kevin. "He probably figured it was a great two-for-one deal. On the one hand, he severely injured my father, who he's never been too fond of. And second, he got rid of my brother, too. Kerry was primed to win the belt from Perez and Hart knew it. What happened to my father totally messed up Kerry's mind. He just wasn't prepared to wrestle. Of course, that he wrestled at all was surprising."

Especially to Hart, who expected Kerry to either forfeit the match or give his title shot to Chris Adams. While Kerry and Kevin carried their father back to the dressing room, Hart demanded that World Class officials call off the match. When they refused, he demanded they find a suitable replacement for Kerry. Kerry, however, sent a message back to the World Class officials stating that he would return before the evening was over to wrestle Perez.



Perez slams Kerry's head into the chain on Hart's handcuffs while the referee is knocked out (above). The manager had been handcuffed to the ropes throughout most of the match. Kerry is dazed and ready to be pinned by Perez (below). For Kerry, it was just another reason to get back at Hart.

By all logical reasoning, Hart had more to gain from attacking Fritz than did Gordy, Roberts, Parsons, and Angel. The only reason these four would attack Fritz is if they were paid to do so. Hart's lifelong goal has been to run the Von Erichs out of Texas and he's willing to pay any price to get the job done.

"I'm not sure what Hart paid them," said Kerry, "but it was a sizeable sum."

Hart, however, continues to plead "Not guilty!" and The Freebirds openly take full credit for the attack. Meanwhile, Fritz continues his struggle against paralysis while his sons defend the family name.

There's evil brewing deep in the heart of Texas. And deep in the heart of Gary Hart. □

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(Continued from page 12)

In 1973, Dory Funk Jr. was hospitalized after a truck accident on his Texas ranch. Jack Brisco assumed Funk's NWA title obligations.

promoter Jim Crockett Sr. ... Gene Kiniski won the Missouri title from Terry Funk ... Roger Kirby upset Omar Atlas for the Central States title ... Superstar Graham was disqualified in his AWA title match with Verne Gagne ... Ray Stevens filed an official protest with the NWA claiming the referee stopped his match with U.S. champion Great Mephisto too early. Stevens had sustained serious facial cuts in the match and was blinded by his own blood ... WWF tag team champions Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji gave a demonstration of their martial arts expertise before a TV audience ... Newly crowned Southern champion Paul Jones issued a challenge to Florida champion Jack Brisco ... WWF champion Pedro Morales won his grudge match with Fred Blassie when, before 22,000 Madison Square Garden fans, the referee stopped the match due to bad cuts on Blassie's face ... Bull Curry wore an asbestos mask to protect him from the fire-throwing Sheik ... A bloody brawl between The Sheik and Chief Jay Strongbow in Ontario ended when the Chief hit referee Pat Flannagan over the head with the press table. The Chief had become enraged when Flannagan refused to give him the foreign object the official had managed to pry away from The Sheik ... Mike Graham and Kevin Sullivan held the Florida tag team title ... With the aid of manager Big K, Ivan Koloff and Superstar Graham defeated the popular team of Billy Robinson and Wahoo McDaniel in Winnipeg ... Former WWF champion Bruno Sammartino and Dominic DeNucci teamed to defeat Killer Kowalski and George Steele in Pittsburgh ... AWA tag team champions Paul and Jos LeDuc defended their belts in LaSalle, Quebec, against Gilles "The Fish" Poisson and Paul "The Butcher" Vachon ... Fred Blassie and Moondog Mayne split the $10,000 winner's prize when the two friends were the last remaining wrestlers in Boston's 18-man battle royal. Perennial battle royal champion Andre the Giant was eliminated fifth, by Gorilla Monsoon ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—The Sheik; 3—Victor Rivera; 4—Jack Brisco; 5—Great Mephisto; 6—Buddy Colt; 7—Terry Funk; 8—Mark Lewin; 9—Lord Al Hays; 10—Paul Jones. WWF RATINGS: 1—Pedro Morales; 2—Bruno Sammartino; 3—Don Leo Jonathan; 4—Fred Blassie; 5—Chief Jay Strongbow; 6—Andre the Giant; 7—Moondog Mayne; 8—Prof. Toru Tanaka; 9—Sonny King; 10—Tony Garea. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Superstar Graham; 4—Wahoo McDaniel; 5—Ivan Koloff; 6—Dusty Rhodes; 7—Dick Murdoch; 8—Don Muraco; 9—Ken Patera; 10—Horst Hoffmann. TAG TEAMS: 1—Prof. Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 2—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 3—Crusher & Bruiser; 4—Karl Von Shotz & Kurt Von Hess; 5—Jos & Paul LeDuc; 6—Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens; 7—The Fargo Brothers; 8—Goliath & Black Gordman; 9—David Morgan & Raul Mata; 10—The Interns.

MARCH/APRIL 1978

ARNOLD SKAALAND, WHO had managed the legendary Bruno Sammartino since his first WWF title reign, became the manager of newly crowned WWF champion Bob Backlund. The "Golden Boy" plotted Backlund's strategy for his successful title defense against Ken Patera ... Dick Slater used every illegal tactic he knew to dethrone Southern champion Pedro Morales ... Kevin Von Erich underwent surgery after suffering a severe knee injury at the hands of Killer Karl Krupp ... Dominic DeNucci and Dino Bravo won the WWF tag team title from Mr. Fuji and Prof. Tanaka ... Eddie Graham resigned as NWA president ... Greg Gagne wrestled to a classic one-hour draw with AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel ... In spite of the fact that Superstar Graham was no longer WWF champion, Dusty Rhodes continued to follow the blond muscleman all over the continent. After their match in Toronto, Ontario, Dusty said: "I must pin his shoulders to the mat in front of my people and humiliate the man who has brought so much shame, so much sadness, to professional wrestling" ... Later in the month, Rhodes was the recipient of the "Antonino Rocca Memorial Popularity Award," an honor given to the most loved wrestler who has never won a world championship ... Stan Hansen reigned as Georgia state champion ... Terry Funk went into special training for a scheduled match in Missouri against Harley Race, his first rematch with the man who beat him for the NWA title ... Former friends Jesse Ventura and Playboy Buddy Rose began a feud in the Pacific Northwest ... Billy Robinson retained his British Empire

(Continued on page 58)

BACK ISSUES OF

SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

Now is the time to complete your collection of SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING, the magazine jam-packed with action photography and in-depth stories. Don't miss out on an issue. Quantities are limited, so order today! [NOTE: Cover stories noted in BOLDFACE.]

September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

SPORTS REVIEW
Wrestling
Exclusive Coverage:
AROUND THE WORLD WITH HULK HOGAN
HOW LARRY ZBYSZKO'S BIG MOUTH COST HIM THE AWA TITLE
SPECIAL SECTION: WRESTLING'S FIENDISH FACES!

DECEMBER 1985

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

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(Continued from page 56)

Arnold Skaaland proudly points to Bob Backlund's WWF belt. "The Golden Boy" became Backlund's manager in 1978.

championship with a victory over King Kong Mosca . . . Two titles were on the line when NWA tag team champions Ric Flair and Greg Valentine wrestled against Mid-Atlantic champions Paul Jones and Rick Steamboat. When Jones captured Flair in an Indian deathlock, the resourceful Valentine went outside the ring and rang the bell. Thinking the match was over, Jones released the hold. The match went on until it was stopped at the time limit and declared a draw . . . Three of the all-time greats, Dusty Rhodes, Mil Mascaras, and Andre the Giant, united for a victory over Mr. Fuji, Prof. Tanaka, and Ken Patera . . . Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods upset Blackjack Mulligan for the U.S. championship . . . NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Dick Murdoch; 5—Rocky Johnson; 6—Mr. Wrestling II; 7—Jack Brisco; 8—Terry Funk; 9—Rick Steamboat; 10—Stan Hansen. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Superstar Graham; 3—Dusty Rhodes; 4—Tatsumi Fujinami; 5—Mil Mascaras; 6—Spiros Arion; 7—Luke Graham; 8—Ken Patera; 9—Dino Bravo; 10—Stan Stasiak. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Verne Gagne; 3—Ray Stevens; 4—Billy Robinson; 5—Larry Hennig; 6—Jim Brunzell; 7—Greg Gagne; 8—Bob Orton Jr.; 9—Rufus R. Jones; 10—King Kong Mosca. TAG TEAMS: 1—Ric Flair & Greg Valentine; 2—Dino Bravo & Dominic DeNucci; 3—Mike Graham & Steve Keirn; 4—Jim Brunzell & Greg Gagne; 5—Paul Jones & Rick Steamboat; 6—Mr. Sato & Mr. Saito; 7—Jack & Jerry Brisco; 8—The Valiant Brothers; 9—Ole Anderson & Jacques Goulet; 10—Tony Garea & Larry Zbyszko.

MARCH/APRIL 1983

LARRY ZBYSZKO SHOCKED the wrestling world when he bought the Georgia National title from Killer Brooks for $25,000. Brooks, who won the belt from Paul Orndorff, had previously agreed to sell Zbyszko the title. Later, Zbyszko was stripped of the title and a tournament was held to determine a new champion . . . In a bloody cage battle, Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood captured the NWA World tag team title from Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle in Greensboro, North Carolina . . . A man calling himself The Professional came down to Florida and began offering $5,000 to any opponent who could beat him in 10 minutes, $5,000 to any opponent able to escape his favorite hold, and $5,000 to anyone who could remove his mask . . . Bobby Heenan upped the bounty to $15,000 to any man who could put Hulk Hogan in the hospital and take him out of contention for the AWA World title held by Nick Bockwinkel . . . The Samoans won their third WWF tag team title by defeating Jay and Jules Strongbow in Allentown, Pennsylvania . . . Roddy Piper won the U.S. championship from Greg Valentine in Greensboro, but lost it back to Valentine only two weeks later . . . Former AWA champion Verne Gagne made a one-night comeback to team with his old partner, Mad Dog Vachon, in Minneapo-

lis. The former AWA tag team champions battered Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie and Crusher Blackwell ... Blackjack Mulligan and his son, Barry Windham, reunited after Mulligan watched Barry lose the Southern title to Frank Dusek because of Angelo Mosca's interference. "I realized at that point how much he meant to me and how pointless our differences were," Mulligan said. He vowed revenge against his son's enemies ... Another father-son combination had the opposite problem. Eddie Gilbert became greatly upset when his father, Tommy, turned rulebreaker in Tennessee ... Those two New York street brothers, Bugsy McGraw and Jimmy Valiant, joined forces to battle H & H, Ltd., the notorious rulebreaking organization jointly managed by Gary Hart and Sir Oliver Humperdink ... Danny Hodge, whom many consider the greatest junior heavyweight in the sport's history, came out of retirement to wrestle in Oklahoma ... Andre the Giant's feud with Kamala reached a level of brutality and violence previously unknown to millions of Andre's loyal fans. NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Roddy Piper; 3—Larry Zbyszko; 4—Dory Funk Jr.; 5—Crusher Blackwell; 6—Scott McGhee; 7—Bob Armstrong; 8—Frank Dusek; 9—Dewey Robertson; 10—Tommy Rich. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Ivan Koloff; 3—Magnificent Muraco; 4—Mike Sharpe; 5—Jimmy Snuka; 6—John Studd; 7—Superstar Graham; 8—Rocky Johnson; 9—Pedro Morales; 10—Ray Stevens. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Hulk Hogan; 4—Jerry Lawler; 5—Wahoo McDaniel; 6—Ken Patera; 7—Jesse Ventura; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Jim Brunzell; 10—Crusher Blackwell. TAG TEAMS: 1—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood; 2—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 3—Terry Allen & Brad Armstrong; 4—The Freebirds; 5—Mr. Olympia & Ted DiBiase; 6—The Masked Grapplers; 7—The Samoans; 8—Crusher Blackwell & Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie; 9—Kim Duk & Massa Fuchi; 10—The Midnight Express. □

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☐ SEPTEMBER/78 ☐ JANUARY/79 ☐ APRIL/79 ☐ DECEMBER/79 ☐ JANUARY/80
☐ APRIL/80 ☐ SEPTEMBER/80 ☐ DECEMBER/80 ☐ AUGUST/81 ☐ AUGUST/83

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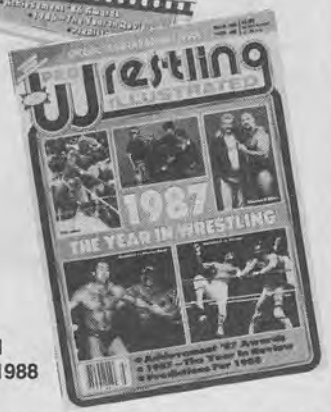
PWI
March 1987



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March 1988

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

Attacking Hulk Hogan before the bell, Randy Savage shows no remorse. Many of the "Macho Man's" loyal fans feel he's no longer much of a savage after becoming friends with Hogan.

main events pitting Hogan against men like Killer Khan, One Man Gang, and The Honky Tonk Man, none of whom are main-event wrestlers.

Had Savage continued to receive title shots at Hogan, we think he would have eventually caused the downfall of "The Hulkster." For himself and for his fans, let's hope we see a quick change of heart from the "Macho Man," or else be doomed to seeing second-class main events until Hogan retires.

RICK HOLMES
PETER RIENDEAU
Franklin, MA

STRIKE WITH FORCE

After reading the story in your February 1988 issue about Strike Force ("Strike Force—How Long Can They Hold The WWF Tag Team Belts?"), I think the answer to that question is that they'll hold the belts until injuries get the best of them.

I agree with you guys that Strike Force is one of the best teams to come along in a while, but look at the teams challenging them: The Hart Foundation (former champs), The Islanders, Demolition, and The Bolsheviks. Accepting challenges from these contenders means almost certain injury.

On the other hand, if they continue to wrestle extremely well and control the tempo of their matches, they could hold the belts longer than any team has before them.

LUKE POOLE
Ebensburg, PA

IT'S TIME, DUSTY

You know, it didn't faze me that Dusty Rhodes said he was possibly going to retire in 1988. I read an article in your February issue (" 'The Dream' Needs A Rest: Why Dusty Rhodes Must Take 1988 Off!"), and I would like to make a few comments. First of all, I don't think Dusty *must* take 1988 off; he should take off 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, and more! He should retire *permanently* from the ring, and perhaps pursue a managing career . . . in the WWF!

Why the WWF? I feel that Dusty is wasting his time in the NWA. He is so

Dusty Rhodes elbows Eddie Gilbert. In Philip Bruno's opinion, Dusty should not only take 1988 off, he should retire permanently and become a manager—in the WWF.

out of shape that he makes my 59-year-old father look like Lex Luger! If he pursues a managing career in the WWF, he will really make it big. Who wouldn't?

Hey, if Vince McMahon offered him the bucks, he'd be a mindless jerk to refuse. I just hope he wouldn't become a Capt. Lou Albano wanna-be like Oliver Humperdink.

PHILIP BRUNO
New York

GARVIN WASN'T PROTECTED

I was reading "We Accuse" in your January 1988 issue and I disagree with the writer. First of all, you say the NWA is unjustly favoring Ronnie Garvin. Unjustly favoring compared to whom? Ric Flair? The rest of The Four Horsemen? I've seen them break Dusty Rhodes' ankle and nothing was done about it. I've seen them attack Dusty in a parking lot and nothing was done about it. I've seen them break Ronnie Garvin's hand, attack The Rock 'n' Roll Express in their dressing room, and spike Road Warrior Animal's eye, all with the same result: nothing. And you think *Ronnie* is unjustly favored?

I do think he should have defended his title at least once within the 30-day time limit, even if it was to be against Flair. As for Garvin not wrestling 100 percent until Starrcade, I don't think that happened. Ever since I've been watching Ronnie, he has *always* wrestled 100 percent, and I don't think the title changed that.

ROBIN MENGERINK
Van Wurt, OH

A MAGNIFICENT MAN

I've just read the special section in the January 1988 issue of your magazine entitled "The Brilliant Career Of Magnum T.A." As a big Magnum fan, I would like to thank you for writing it. It was a very good article.

With all the courage and determination Magnum had following his accident, and that he showed all through his rehabilitation, I know someday soon he will be back at his brilliant career, and I cannot wait to see him back in the ring. Also, I loved the

Magnum T.A. gives Ric Flair a very high backdrop. Reader Tina Mango believes Magnum's career won't be complete until he returns to the ring.

pictures. I hope to see more of them. I'm surprised other magazines haven't done something like this. Thanks again.

TINA MANGO
Lubbock, TX □

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TO BAIT THE GIANT!
MAD DOG?
"SUPERSTAR'S" WRATH!

JUNE 1975

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

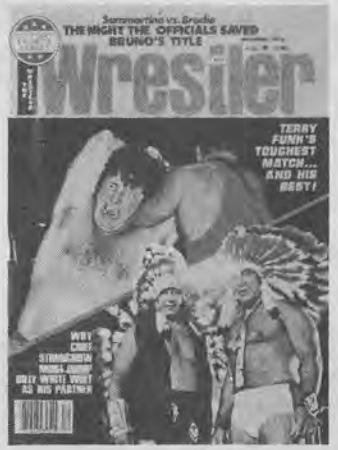
December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.



DECEMBER 1976

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

Why Ken Patera Boasts:
"I'VE BEATEN THE CREATNESS OUT OF BRUNO SAMMARTINO!"
ANDRE THE GIANT LEARNS HOW TO HATE
THE SAMOAN STRAP MATCH BETWEEN SUPERSTAR GRAHAM AND DUSTY RHODES

JUNE 1977

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Gramham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

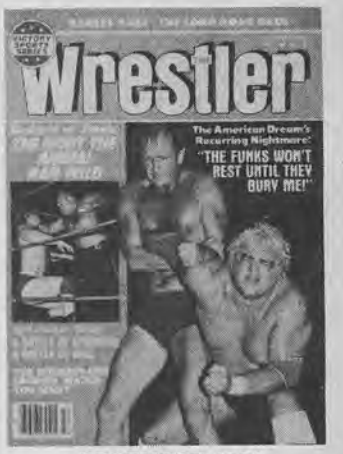
July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

DUSTY ANDREW REGAINS NWA TITLE!
BACKLUND AND PATTERSON CONSPIRED AGAINST KING KONG MOSCA
Dusty Swears Revenge:
"KILLER KHAN MUST BE DESTROYED!"
Is The Funk Family At War?
WHY TERRY FUNK AND DUSTY FUNK JR. WERE FORCED TO WRESTLE

OCTOBER 1981



DECEMBER 1981

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

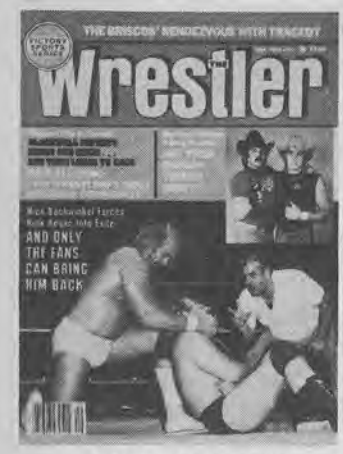
April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.



SEPTEMBER 1983

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

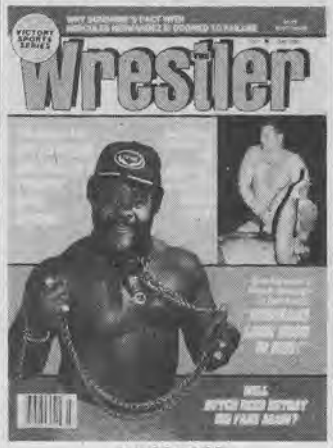
February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.



JULY 1985

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

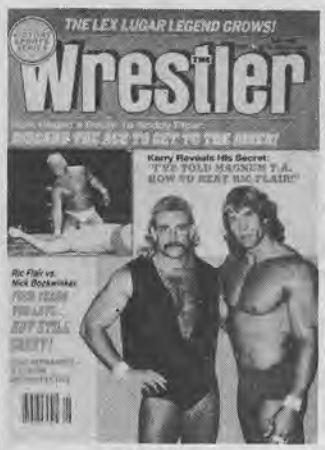
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.



JUNE 1986

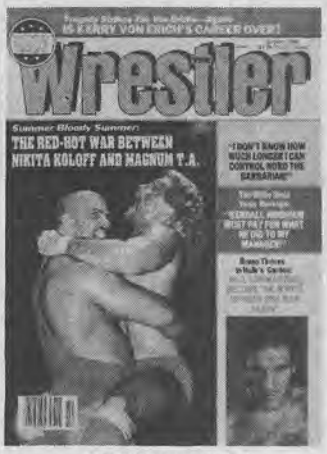
June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

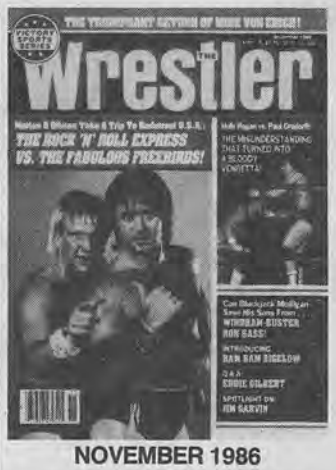
August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.



OCTOBER 1986



NOVEMBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

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TED DiBIASE

(Continued from page 35)

"Iron" Mike DiBiase, Ted's father, relied solely on his wrestling ability to get ahead.

became a rich man.

● DiBiase's grandfather had a very strong work ethic and kept his money invested so his children and grandchildren would be comfortable. "Mike DiBiase had a very comfortable upbringing," said Rick Stone, a boyhood friend of Mike's, "but by looking at their house and the way they lived, you wouldn't call them rich."

● Mike DiBiase inherited not only his father's money, but his work ethic, too. From childhood, he dreamed of becoming a professional wrestler but didn't want anything handed to him. He also didn't want to alienate other wrestlers by flaunting his wealth. So Mike worked his way up, just like any other wrestler, used his money only for the necessities, and never hinted to anyone, not even his closest friends, that he wasn't wrestling to make a living. He had all the money he would ever need.

● Ted DiBiase loved his father and was devastated by his death in 1969. He vowed to follow in his father's footsteps and not use his huge inheritance to live a lazy life of leisure. When he decided to become a professional wrestler, Ted worked his way up and, like his father, used his money only for creature comforts. He didn't want things handed to him. He worked hard and became one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the world.

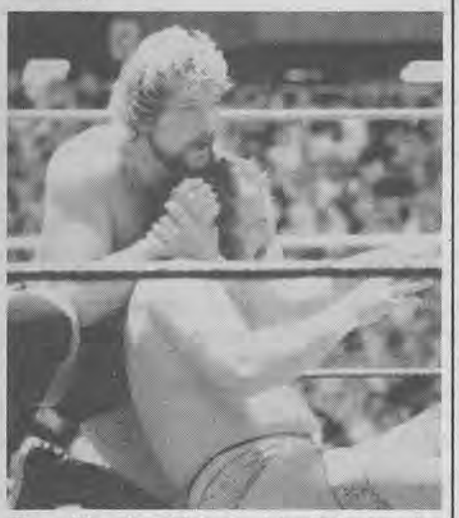
There were times, however, when DiBiase hinted to his great wealth. In the early 1980s, DiBiase was wrestling in the Mid-South area when a close friend ran into serious financial problems. A *Sports Review Wrestling* reporter was told that DiBiase's friend had tens of thousands of dollars in debts, and Ted gave him the cash "virtually on the spot. Nobody knew where he got it from."

Sports Review Wrestling Senior Editor Bill Apter also revealed that he sometimes wondered where DiBiase got his money. "Whenever we went out to dinner to talk shop, he'd always pick up the bill, no matter how big it was," said Apter. "And he was a big tipper, too. We'd go to these extravagant restaurants, order everything on the menu, and he'd pick up the bill without blinking an eye. You

DiBiase (slamming John Tatum) discovered a new way to use his money.

know, the one thing he'd always say to me after was, 'Bill, do me a favor and don't let anybody know I did this.' I just thought he was that kind of guy, very humble and down to earth."

In early 1987, however, DiBiase began to realize that hiding his wealth wasn't getting him where he wanted to be. He was one of the finest wrestlers in the UWF, but wasn't getting his share of title shots. At that time, WWF promoters began to court him with contract offers. DiBiase began to think that maybe it was time to flaunt his money.



The millionaire chinlocks Jake Roberts, who was both friend and foe in the Mid-South.

"Ted DiBiase is one of the richest men in North America," said one source, "and Vince McMahon only made him richer. I don't think McMahon realized, though, what DiBiase had up his sleeve. I think from the very start Ted planned to try and buy the belt. Ted figured that after using his body all those years, it was time to use his money."

What does this mean? It means that Ted DiBiase was *not* made a rich man by Vince McMahon, as most people had been led to believe. And it also means that the new Ted DiBiase is a bitter, frustrated man who couldn't earn what he wanted and now has to buy it.

If he isn't successful, his money *and* his career will both be worthless. □

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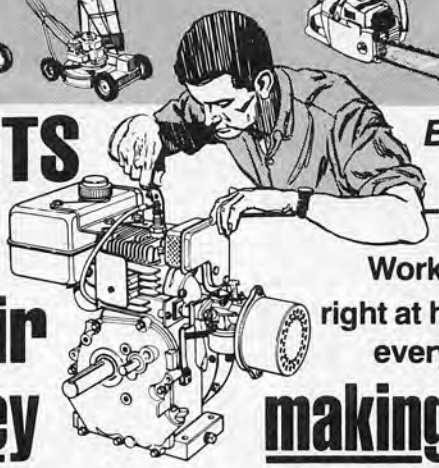

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